



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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NEW TEXTBOOKS FOR CLASSES 3 & 6 TO BE OUT IN APRIL, MAY: NCERT

For other classes, textbooks will only be updated and revised this year, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) said

STEPS TAKEN TO ENSURE NO GAP IN LEARNING

Director of NCERT Dinesh Prasad Saklani said a 15-day foundation course for students of class 3 and a month-long bridge programme for those from class 6 have been prepared to ensure there is no gap in learning. The NCERT's announcement comes days after the CBSE told affiliated schools to adopt new syllabi for classes 3 and 6 from the upcoming academic year

ABOUT 33 LAKH TEXTBOOKS PRINTED

Saklani said new texts are being adopted in classes 3, 6 as they mark the start of preparatory and middle stages of schooling, respectively
■ About 33 lakh updated textbooks for classes 1, 2, 7, 8, 10 and 12 have been delivered to bookshops, Saklani said. New books for class 3 and updated books for classes 4, 5, 9 and 11 will be out this month | P9

26 crore
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 14.86 LAKH SCHOOLS IN INDIA

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOLKATA • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRISSUR • KALABURAGI

BJP WON'T WIN 200 LS SEATS, NO MODI WAVE IN K'TAKA, SAYS DKS

PURAN CHOUDHARY & RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday predicted that BJP will not secure more than 200 seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

He was speaking at Express Dialogues — Mini Conclave held in the city. In the run-up to the last Assembly elections in the state, Shivakumar had predicted that Congress would win 141 seats and the party secured 135 seats.

EXPRESS Dialogues

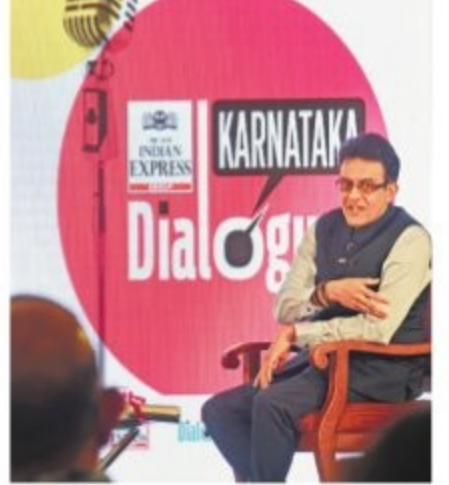
"If BJP is so powerful, they would not have gone around making so many alliances. They are also not sure of winning more than 200 seats," Shivakumar said, adding that the arrest of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal is a sign of BJP's weakness.

Speaking on I.N.D.I.A. and dodging a question on Rahul

Gandhi's nomination in Wayanad against a non-BJP candidate, Shivakumar said, "It is still not decided who will be the leader of I.N.D.I.A. We believe in inclusivity. Instead of singling out and elevating any one individual as a leader, we will face whatever challenges may arise together."

Shivakumar was also confident of Congress' good show in LS elections in the state. He asserted that there is no Modi wave in Karnataka.

CONTINUED ON: P4



Man slits his throat in front of K'taka CJ, judge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a shocking incident, a 51-year-old litigant attempted suicide by slitting his throat with a surgical knife in front of a division bench of the High Court of Karnataka, comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice Dr HB Prabhakara Sastry on Wednesday.

Chinnam Srinivas from Vijayanagar in Mysuru slit his throat around 1.10pm just before the division bench rose for the day for a function in honour of Dr Sastry, who retired the same day. Soon after the incident, the access to live streaming of the court proceedings was withdrawn.

The incident shocked the judges, staff members and a few advocates who were in the court hall. Expressing concern over the incident, the judges sought to know how the man entered the court hall with the knife, which is a matter of security concern. The judges immediately summoned policemen attached to the high court security division and

directed them to shift the injured man to hospital.

Srinivas had filed a cheating complaint in Mysuru after he was reportedly cheated of Rs 93 lakh by his partners in a residential apartment project. The complaint was filed against three persons, including a woman from Hyderabad. However, a single-judge bench quashed the FIR in June 2023.

Police sources said on Wednesday Srinivas allegedly carried a file related to his case to place it before the Chief Justice directly without following due procedure. He entered the court hall, went near the podium where the judges were seated and handed over the file to the staff there. When the staff sought details, he slit his throat. He is said to have undergone heart surgeries twice.

"The man, who attempted suicide, is receiving treatment at Bowring Hospital and his condition is stable," Dr Manoj Kumar, Director-cum-Dean, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical and Research Institution, told TNIE.

Wary Rahul's roadshow flagless

Thousands attend rally; Congress ally Muslim League's 'green' flags conspicuously absent



On one side are the forces who want to destroy the democracy and the Constitution of this country and on the other, there is a force that is protecting the Constitution and democratic nature of our count

Rahul Gandhi, Cong's Wayanad nominee

People are coming to me and saying that they never voted for that symbol (Congress party's) before the last election but they were told that he would become the prime minister. So they voted for him. But what happened?

Annie Raja, CPI candidate in Wayanad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kalpetta

TREADING cautiously, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi abandoned party flags of all allies as he took out a massive roadshow to the Wayanad district collectorate on Wednesday to submit his nomination papers for the Lok Sabha election. The extensive use of key ally Muslim League's green flags during his 2019 roadshow was played up by the BJP at the national level, with senior leaders including Amit Shah wondering whether Rahul was seeking votes in Pakistan, crushing the hopes of the grand old party in north India.

This time, tricoloured balloons and hats along with placards were part of the roadshow instead of flags. Rahul's sister and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal, Muslim League leader Panakkad Sayyid Abbas Ali Shihab Thangal, other local leaders, and thousands of supporters accompanied him.

The absence of flags has left many tongues wagging. Even Rahul's 2019 loss in Amethi was attributed to the presence of Muslim League flags in his roadshow then. The Congress was in no mood to take any chances this time. Since it would have been counterproductive to avoid only the League flag, it was decided to abandon the use of flags altogether, including that of the Congress. "Flags are not important in elections. Rahul Gandhi and the hand symbol are our icons," Kalpetta MLA T Siddique said. But Congress and the Muslim League will have to sweat it out to explain the action. There will be questions as to how the party will raise the issues of Muslims, when it finds even the presence of the League flag embarrassing.

Speaking at the conclusion of the roadshow, Rahul said he will be with the people of Wayanad in their fight to resolve three major issues — human-wildlife conflict, night travel ban, and lack of a medical college in the hilly district.

2-yr-old boy falls into borewell in Indi, rescue on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayapura

A two-year-old boy reportedly fell into an open borewell at Lachyan village in Indi taluk on Wednesday.

According to reports, Satwik Mujagond fell into the borewell at a farm while playing near it. An operation is on to rescue the boy. Deputy Commissioner T Bhoobalan, who visited the spot, has asked SDRF from Kalaburagi to join the operation.

Assistant Commissioner Abid Gadyal said the boy fell into the borewell around 6 pm. The boy is said to be the grandson of the farm owner.

"We sent a team of police and revenue officials, and fire services personnel to the village. Earthmovers are digging a parallel pit to rescue the boy stuck 20 ft below," he said.

According to sources, the borewell was drilled a few days ago. With no sign of water at 280 ft, the farm owner stopped drilling further and did not bother to close it.

Goa murder case: Police file 642-page chargesheet against Bengaluru CEO

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

THE Goa police filed a chargesheet against Suchana Seth, CEO of a Bengaluru-based AI start-up, before the Goa Children's Court on Wednesday in connection with the murder of her son in a hotel in Calangute.

The court will hear the case on June 14 when charges will be framed against Seth, 39, who is now in judicial custody in Goa.



Suchana Seth

Seth had allegedly killed her four-year-old son in the hotel room and was later caught by Karnataka police when she was taking the body stuffed in a suitcase to Bengaluru by a cab on January 7.

In the 642-page chargesheet, the Goa police stated that Seth's son died as a result of shock and respiratory asphyxia caused by strangulation.

The police also mentioned that a note recovered from

the hotel room was written by Seth.

The chargesheet contains names of 59 witnesses, including several staff members of the hotel where Seth stayed in Goa. It also has the statements of Seth's husband, which were crucial in cracking the case.

Seth was arrested in Chitradurga on her way to Bengaluru from Goa. The police booked her under Sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act.

VOTE CHECK

SC to list pleas on VVPAT before LS polls begin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Wednesday said it will take up a batch of pleas related to EVM data cross-checking against voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) records the week after next. The petitions were supposed to come up on Wednesday but could not be listed because Justice Khanna was heading a special bench.

The pleas seek a direction to the Election Commission to count all VVPAT slips as against the current practice of verifying only five randomly selected EVMs in each assembly segment of a parliamentary constituency.

On Wednesday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal mentioned the matter before the special bench of Justices Khanna, M M Sundresh and Bela M Trivedi, requesting that the pleas may be heard next Tuesday.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, also appearing in the matter, submitted before the bench that the elections are about to start and the pleas would become infructuous if the case is not heard urgently.

Justice Khanna said the court is aware of the situation and wants to speed up the hearing. However, the matter can't be listed next week due to roster issues. It will be listed the week after, he added.

On Monday, a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta had issued notice to the ECI and the Centre on another petition filed by lawyer and activist Arun Kumar Agrawal seeking 100% verification of VVPAT slips. The norm of five randomly picked EVMs to undergo VVPAT physical verification was set in April 2019, following an SC direction. Before that, only one EVM underwent the process.

VVPAT is an independent vote verification system which permits an elector to check if the vote she or he cast went to the intended candidate.

TAIWAN SHAKES @ 7.4



One of the buildings damaged by a powerful earthquake that shook Taiwan's Hualien County on Wednesday morning | AP | P12

STRONGEST IN 25 YRS

A 7.4 magnitude earthquake, the strongest to hit Taiwan in a quarter-century, damaged dozens of buildings and caused 24 landslides that blocked key roads leaving thousands isolated

9
PEOPLE
KILLED

70
COAL MINERS TRAPPED IN
TWO QUARRIES IN TAIWAN

MANIPAL
ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
BENGALURU CAMPUS
(Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University)

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Bescom to set up EV charging infra along highways, in RTOs

State has 3.4 lakh e-vehicles, wants to popularise their use in rural areas

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

WHILE electric vehicles (EV) make up around 10 per cent of the total vehicles registered in Karnataka every year, a majority of the vehicles are in Bengaluru. To encourage other cities and districts to opt for electric vehicles, the state transport department and Bangalore Electric Supply Company Limited (Bescom) are setting up charging infrastructure along highways and at Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) across the state.

There are nearly 3.4 lakh e-vehicles -- 2.98 lakh two-wheelers, 23,516 four-wheelers and 18,246 three-wheelers -- of which more than 90 per cent are registered in the state capital.

Additional Commissioner of Transport Gnanendra Kumar told TNIE, "The government is promoting e-vehicles as they reduce emissions, which helps in reducing global warming. We are promoting EVs by exempting them from paying life-time tax, except for vehicles that cost more than Rs 25 lakh. However, the trend is that the majority of the EVs registered are in Bengaluru."

One of the major reasons for the EV growth focussed only around Bengaluru is the lack

of adequate charging infrastructure across the state. Bengaluru has more than 120 charging stations set up by Bescom. Many apartments and public places, too, have charging infra in the city, Kumar said.

"Bescom is the nodal agency to set up charging infrastructure. The lack of availability of charging infrastructure across the state was discussed at our recent meeting with Bescom. We have requested Bescom to focus on other districts and highways and places across the state, to encourage people to choose EVs," he said.

"To begin with, Bescom will be setting up charging infrastructure in selected RTOs across the state. Funds will be given by the transport department. Also, the government is supporting and promoting private players to set up necessary infrastructure along highways," explained Kumar.

He said with infrastructure development along highways and at RTOs like Dharwad, Mysuru, Mangaluru and other suitable places in districts, there will be an impetus for EV growth across the state. "This will do away with the fear of range anxiety, and people will come forward to purchase e-vehicles in other districts too," he said.

Bridge below B'luru-Mysuru NH to help students

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

IN a major relief for public, particularly students of numerous institutions, who risk their lives to reach or leave the Challaghatta Metro station, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) has decided to build a bridge to connect both sides of the Bengaluru-Mysuru National Highway. To speed up the work, the same contractor readying the Challaghatta depot has been asked to construct it too.

The terminal station on the Purple Line, was opened on October 9 last year, and the average daily footfalls hover around 10,000.

"The bridge is being built at a cost of Rs 2.22 crore and will be operational by the end of

September. It will have stairs and lifts. The contractor RITES PMPL has begun the preliminary work on it," said a senior Metro official.

With the Rajarajeshwari Medical College, ACS College of Engineering, Rajarajeshwari Dental College, SDM Institute of Ayurveda and Hospital and ICAI Business School present in the vicinity, the station is usually bustling with people in the mornings and evenings.

Director of Projects and Planning, BMRL, D Radhakrishna Reddy said, "We had submitted our proposal to the NHAI recently and have received their in-principle approval for the same. Since the flyover is located here, there could be some technical issues. We will be



Students cross the Bengaluru-Mysuru National Highway near the Challaghatta Metro station

doing it in the interest of public safety, he added.

Elaborating on the technical aspects, another official said, "A minimum height of 5.5 metres should be maintained between the flyover and the new structure. Maintaining this distance above the flyover is impossible, which is why we are taking it below it. The bridge will be built to according to the standard bridge dimensions, a height of 2.1 metres."

Besides, BMRL will also be building a footpath for 100 metres to connect the bridge on the side where the Metro station is located. "The landing on the other side is in front of the emergency department of the RR Medical College. They have agreed to give land to build it here," he said.



ROADS leading to the BBMP head office witness traffic snarl with LS poll candidates lining up to file their nomination on Wednesday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

'Stop encroachments on Pattandur Agrahara Lake zone'

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

After residents and activists highlighted the alleged illegal constructions on the buffer zone of Pattandur Agrahara Lake, the Karnataka Tank Development and Conservation Authority (KTDCA) directed the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to inspect the lake and take immediate action to stop such unauthorized settlement and road construction works.

Following, activists and residents highlighting blatant violations, including that of a construction of a road on a buffer zone, despite directions from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the High Court, KTDCA Chief Executive Officer, Mruthunjay Swamy advised the inspection of the same on March 21.

According to Sandeep Anirudhan, convenor, Citizens Agenda for Bengaluru in

survey number 19/2, the illegal layout is being developed and attempts are being made to build a sewage network and connect it to the drain leading into Pattandur Agrahara lake.

"KTDCA in the order issued on March 21 stated that, as per rules, action will be taken against any unauthorized settlement, road construction and illegal construction of buildings in buffer zone areas (within 30 metres from the lake boundary). The order also directed that the report on the action taken will be shared with activists who highlighted the illegalities," he said.

The activist also added that the BDA should have included the lake in the Revised Master Plan 2015, to avoid lake encroachment. KTDCA officials assured that they will write to the BDA to amend the RMP and include the lake to stop encroachments.

Double Deck train to Chennai to leave at 1.30pm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

BOWING to public demand, the Double Decker train service (Train no. 22626) operating daily between KSR Bengaluru and Purnai Thalaivar Dr MGR Chennai Central has been advanced by an hour. It will depart from Bengaluru at 1.30 pm and will reach Chennai at 7.45 pm instead of 8.30 pm. The new timings will be in effect from May 1, said an official release citing the rescheduling was carried out by Southern Railway.

A senior official told TNIE, "The Southern Railway wanted to make optimum use of their available facilities, which is why they have tried an integration of different trains. The public also had a long pending demand to run a train during early afternoon hours from Bengaluru to reach Chennai by nightfall. As of now, Train no. 12601 from Mysuru to MGR Central runs at 8 am.

No financial transactions for third day in post offices across state, consumers hit hard

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

PUBLIC who are dependent on the Postal Department were put to major inconvenience on Wednesday as the scheduled two-day closure announced for financial transactions on April 1 and 2 stretched unannounced into the third successive day. With no advance intimation given, there was much confusion in the minds of the public, particularly pensioners. The opera-

tions are expected to be normal from Thursday.

The closure of business transactions for two days is an annual feature. However, the extension onto the third day hit the public hard, conceded a senior postal official.

"Pensioners, particularly those in rural or remote places, who usually visit their neighbourhood Post Offices to collect their monthly pensions across Karnataka had to return empty

handed after they learnt the money was not deposited," he said. The money gets deposited directly into the postal account of pensioners and many of them use an ATM card to withdraw their pension but the direct transfer into the account also could not happen.

A pensioner Raagina Ammal (name changed) in Bengaluru told TNIE, "I check my account on my phone on the first of every month and the money is promptly

deposited. With two days elapsing, I got worried today (Wednesday) that something untoward had happened and sent my son to my post office. I was told that there was no problem and I would get my pension in a day. This pension is my lifeline for survival and so I got a bit panicky."

With the Good Friday holiday for the Postal Department, followed by Sunday and the closure for transactions officially announced for Monday and Tues-

day, the public have been definitely inconvenienced. "It must have appeared like there was a very long break in operations," said another official. "Those who operate Savings Banks accounts, Recurring Deposits and Fixed Deposits with us too were impacted. In addition, beneficiaries of many social welfare schemes run by the Centre like Sukanya Samridhi Yojana for the girl child and other schemes too were inconvenienced," he added.



Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

04th April: I mentioned Nostradamus, the sixteenth century prophet, yesterday. A lot of people think he made predictions about modern politicians, like Mrs Ghandi, Saddam Hussein and Bill Clinton. Actually, I believe he was talking about leaders in his own time, great figures such as the Mughal Emperor and the Turkish Sultan.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

No matter how anxious you may be to get certain enterprises underway, there's no need to hurry. Recent hold-ups have made you impatient, and rightly so, but you have until the end of the year to make a fresh start. Pick your own time and don't berush.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Do you imagine that you have had to abandon a number of projects because of a lack of understanding or sympathy from other people? If so, you are not looking honestly at your part in events. But, then, why should you? Sometimes you can just relax and stay as you are.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Adverse or challenging aspects recently have made you feel that the world has been out to get you. However, the best way to keep your spirits up is to realise that beneath it all, people really are on your side. There seems to be some chance of mechanical difficulties around today, so check for problems.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Saturn advises caution and restraint for a little while longer, advice which may not suit your imaginative and ambitious plans. Still, if you allow events to take their own course, your ideas will have time to mature. You may feel as if you're carrying the world on your shoulders. But that just shows how strong you are, doesn't it?

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Current planetary transits should leave you jumping for joy. The planets are rearranging themselves in such a way that tension and pressure will be relieved while pleasure and enjoyment should be enhanced. A child may be feeling shaken, even though they may not be showing it, so be considerate.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

As the Sun, and then Mercury, align themselves with the angle of your horoscope ruling your home, domestic considerations will become more and more of an issue. Some of you may be considering a move in the near future, or a similar improvement in your home conditions. There is some way to go yet, though.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

Sometimes the planets have to be kind, and what they are planning now is a change of tack in joint financial affairs. The deadline looms but probably not until next week at the earliest, so you've plenty of time to take the necessary action.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Your biggest weakness at the moment may be complacency. Do not relax your guard for one moment, at least not until you are absolutely sure that you are out of danger. Partners may wrongly accuse you of letting them down, but perhaps they should have done more for themselves!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

You may wait until after tomorrow if you want to broach sensitive emotional issues. Today, you should make sure that partners are prepared to listen to what you are planning to say. Above all, be tolerant. After all, you may just be responsible for the problems you criticise in others.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

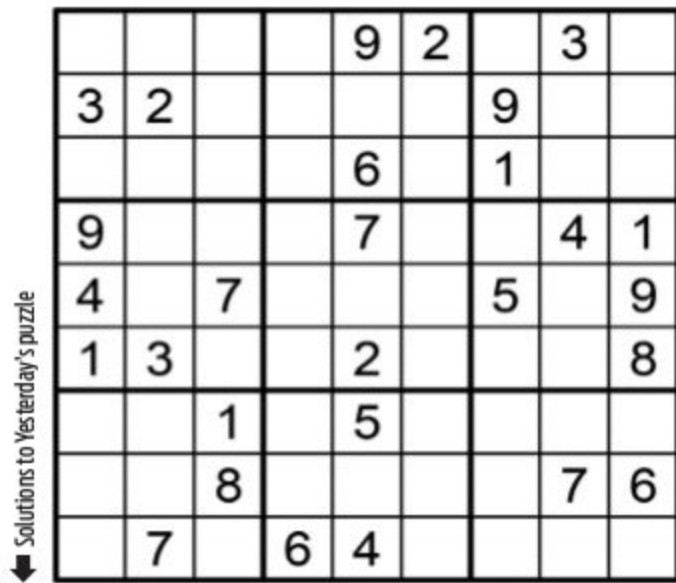
You may still feel as if you're isolated, never a pleasant sensation. However, if you are separated from those you love and care for, why not do something about it? You may be surprised by the welcome response you receive. It will be pleasant to discover how popular you are.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

It may be time to clear away some of the debris that still seems to be cluttering up your life after recent emotional traumas. Focus on professional and career relationships, as these are where you will gain. Remember, if your dreams are to come true, you'll have to pay for them!

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

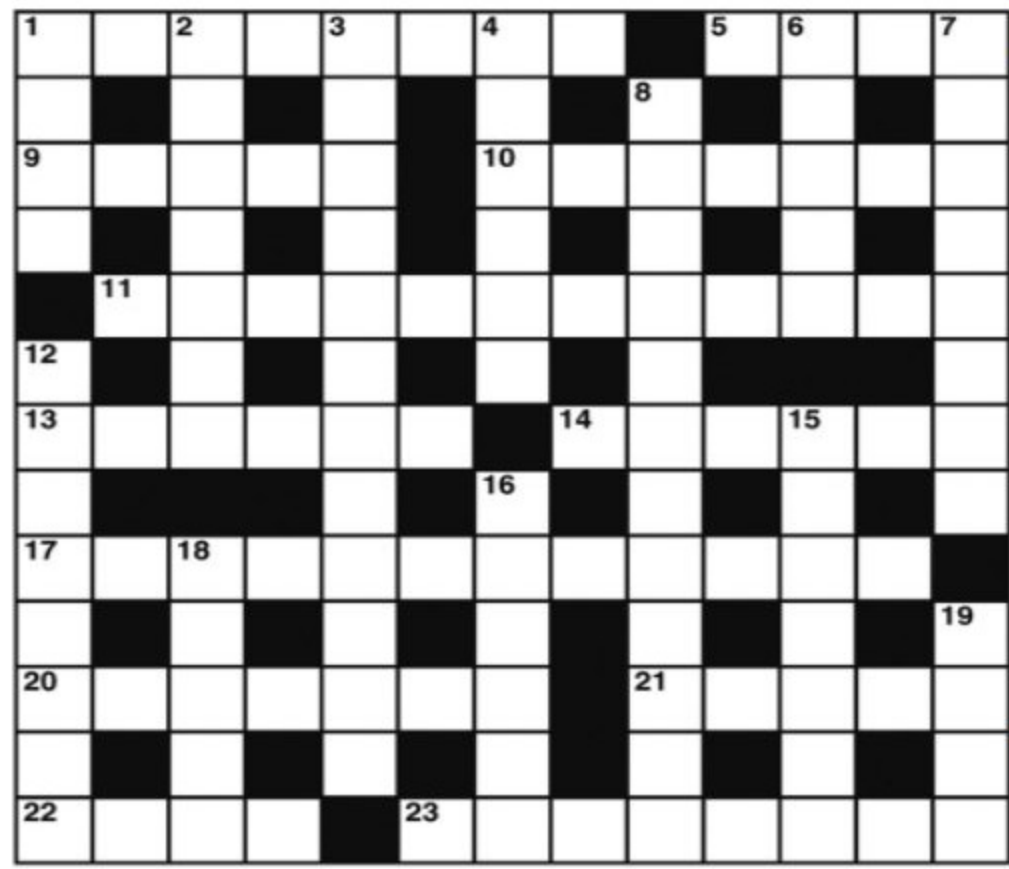
Overall, it's a positive moment. There haven't been many years when you can remember being so concerned about personal matters but, even though you have faced obstacles in the past, it is finally beginning to look as if your path is clear. And that just has to be cause for rejoicing.



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Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Liberation in a manner of speaking (8)
- Heated hostility to being married (4)
- Time to invoke the Muse (5)
- A dose of processed shellfish (7)
- Item of wear that's never worn out (12)
- Tardy perhaps and discover a curiosity (6)
- It doesn't describe the present schoolboy (6)
- Declare writers have one on retirement? (57)
- He demands payment absolutely right with gold (7)
- Ways out exist perhaps (5)
- Fly in reverse to get a kick (4)
- Newspapers cover a long period in forecasts (8)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Relations, 8 Theta, 9 Endorse, 10 Score, 11 Presto, 12 No wonder, 15 Conquest, 18 Olmch, 20 Linage, 21 Amnesia, 22 Salon, 23 Town chief.

DOWN

- Can it turn the tide for the overweight? (4)
- He may be in a car or under a coach (7)
- Not a peaceful departure (7.5)
- Give up but accept the contract again? (6)
- A colour used in make up for appearance (5)
- Contemplate a change in diet (8)
- Top stylists (12)
- Outlook shows promise (8)
- Worshipping a barbaric rain god (7)
- Fear to make the initial mistake (6)
- Make a profit once more (5)
- Requests time off from jobs (4)

JUMBLE

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

ONUBD

RUTFI

CTYISK

LAIGOE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: THIRD LARVA LARGER BOTANY Answer: To purchase the Steinway piano and have it delivered, they were going to pay the — GRAND TOTAL

On allegations of backstabbing within Congress, Saleem Ahmed said, "We will work unitedly for the victory of Mansoor Khan. He is well educated and is a new face."

But a senior party leader admitted that there are differences among leaders.

TN moves SC, seeks release of relief funds

State asks for ₹37K cr from Centre

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@New Delhi

AFTER Karnataka government, Tamil Nadu has now moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the union government to release funds to the state for disaster relief and natural calamities. The DMK government, in its petition, has invoked Article 131 of the Constitution under which the Supreme Court has exclusive and original jurisdiction over legal issues between states or between a state or states and the union government or their instrumentalities.

The state government has urged the top court to direct the centre to provide over Rs 37,000 crore in aid for damage caused by recent floods and Cyclone Michaung.

Besides seeking financial assistance of Rs 19,692.69 crore for the damage caused by Cyclone Michaung in December last year, the Tamil Nadu government has sought Rs 18,000 crore for losses incurred due to the unprecedented rains in southern dis-

tricts of the state. The plea also seeks a direction to the centre to release Rs 2,000 crore immediately as an interim measure.

Tamil Nadu government has alleged that the centre has failed in its duty to act on the reports of an inter-ministerial team that visited the state to assess the damage caused by the natural calamities. The delay in releasing financial aid to the state is illegal, arbitrary, and violates the citizens' fundamental rights under Articles 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution, the petition said.

"There is no justification to delay the release of funds. The differential treatment in releasing funds in comparison to other states is tantamount to class discrimination. This step-motherly treatment violates the National Disaster Management Policy and financial relations and federal nature of tax division. Failure to act on the issue hampers the state's developmental activities and causes mental agony and hardship to its people," the petition said.



READY FOR POLLS

Poll frenzy affects all age groups as a boy helps his parents fix political flags in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday | DEBADATTA MALLICK

35 KIDS FALL ILL AFTER MIDDAY MEAL IN KOPPAL SCHOOL

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Koppal

AT least 35 children fell ill after eating the midday meal prepared in their school at Sangapur village in Koppal district on Wednesday. Fifteen of them were admitted to the government hospital at Gangavathi after they started vomiting.

Staff of the government school said that the children fell ill due to excess heat and not because of the food served

to them. Rice and vegetable curry were served to the children. After 30 minutes, some of them complained of stomach ache and started vomiting.

"We admitted 15 children to the hospital after they started vomiting. Their condition is stable now. Their parents have been informed. The school kitchen has been cleaned and there will be a change in

the menu in view of the extreme weather," said a teacher. Officials from the education department said that schools have been asked to serve liquid food to children in view of the harsh summer. "The schools will be open till April 10. A team from the department has visited the school. Action will be taken based on an inquiry report," they added.



TTE MURDER

Rly staff protest, seek action

ENS @Thirissur

SCORES of Railway employees on Wednesday staged a protest at the Shoranur Railway Station, seeking strict action against the accused in the case pertaining to the murder of TTE (Travelling Ticket Examiner) K Vinod (48), who was pushed to death from a moving train by a migrant labourer.

In the protest meeting organised by the joint committee of various employee unions, the protestors urged the authorities to ensure safety while on duty.

The protestors alleged that the incident that led to the death of the TTE was the failure of the security system in the trains and should be addressed seriously so that such incidents don't repeat.

"TTEs have been facing such harassment from the passengers often. This happens especially on long-distance trains," says VV Gopinath, retired chief travelling ticket inspector.

Earlier, the squad had a target of booking a fixed number of violations. Now, each individual TTE is forced to meet a required target. "Also, if they don't meet their targets they have to face disciplinary actions," says the union member. According to Gopinath, the TTEs have to fear complaints filed by passengers if they are forceful, and disciplinary action from the administration if the target is not achieved.

Heatwave: Tourist footfall in Hampi lowest in 10 yrs

KIRAN BALANNAVAR
@Hosapete

WITH Vijayanagara district experiencing heatwaves and temperature rising up to 42 degrees Celsius, Hampi - a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recorded the lower tourist footfall in the last 10 years. As per official data, everyday only 400 to 500 tourists are visiting Hampi from the last 15 days.

To beat the summer heat, the district administration has constructed a few huts and have also taken safety measures. Business in the heritage site has also taken a beating. Many school students from various states and district who visit Hampi in March every have also not turned up due to the



A hut built for tourists to protect themselves against heat in Hampi | EXPRESS

scorching heat. Virupakshi V Hampi, state president of Tourists' Guide Association said that not more than 600 tourists have visited Hampi in the last two weeks. He confirmed that this is the lowest tourist footfall

recorded in Hampi in the last 10 years. Usually in summer season, around 1,500 tourists visit, but this year, there is a sharp decline in the number.

"The low turnout has made life difficult for us. Health

comes first, but there are also rumours doing the rounds on social media that Hampi is closed for tourists due to heatwave. I request people not to spread such rumours. The district administration has taken all safety measures like drinking water, tourist huts and even availability of medical staff in Hampi," he added.

Senior officials of Vijayanagara district administration said Hampi and its surrounding hills always witness high temperature. It's a natural phenomenon. However, the administration is also taking measures like sprinkling water on tourists using small tractors. Mornings and evenings are the best time to enjoy the beauty of Hampi, they said.

KTR denies links to phone-tap case

MANDA RAVINDER REDDY
@Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao has denied involvement in the phone-tapping scam that allegedly occurred during the tenure of the previous BRS government and slammed Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for dragging his name into the issue.

"I have nothing to do with the phone-tapping case. I will take legal action against all those, including the chief minister, making baseless allegations against me," threatened the former IT minister.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday, he demanded a probe into all phone-tapping allegations since 2004. He recalled how some ministers in the Revanth government accused

undivided Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy of tapping their phones during the Telangana movement. According to Rama Rao, Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar was also among those who alleged that the Kiran Kumar Reddy-led government had resorted to tapping the phones of Congress leaders.



intelligence wing during previous governments. Weren't they responsible for phone tapping," he wondered.

Rama Rao said that whenever he received a message that his phone was also under sur-

veillance, he shared it with people. He alleged that the Congress government was spending a lot of time spreading false propaganda and advised the chief minister to focus on tackling the drinking water problem, not phone tapping.

'CBI should probe the case'

BJP MP and OBC Morcha national president K Laxman on Wednesday reiterated that the phone-tapping case should be handed over to the CBI.

Speaking to reporters here, the BJP leader he said that there is a need for an investigation by the Central agency as the issue affected the electoral process.

Alleging that the Congress government is protecting the real culprits, Laxman said that the saffron party will complain to Governor CP Radhakrishnan if the case is not handed over to the CBI.

Rajiv assassination convicts deported to Sri Lanka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

THREE Sri Lankan convicts jailed for their role in the assassination of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, were deported from India on Wednesday, after spending three decades in prison.

The three - Murugan alias Sriharan, S Jeyakumar and B Robert Payas - left for their home in a Sri Lankan carrier UL122 to Colombo at around 10 am on Wednesday, revealed sources.

An official from Sri Lanka High Commission told TNIE that the trio will undergo investigation in Sri Lanka as they had fled the country illegally, following which they will walk free to their respective homes in the country. The Sri Lankan High Commission here, had granted travel documents to the trio. Murugan had earlier moved the court seeking a direction to provide him a photo ID.

Earlier, Murugan's wife Nalini had also moved the court, seeking a direction to the authorities to permit her husband to appear before the Sri Lankan High Commission here, with an escort to get an 'all country passport'. The couple intended to

A deer was killed on the spot after being hit by a speeding vehicle near Bage village, Sakleshpur taluk on Bengaluru-Mangaluru NH-75, on Tuesday. Villagers expressed anger against forest officials for failing to control the death of wild animals

MNREGA jobs bring people back to Gadag

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

VILLAGERS migrating from Gadag during summer has reduced considerably, after the district administration has been convincing residents by offering them jobs under MGNREGA scheme. In fact, many people are coming back from Goa, Mangaluru, Bengaluru and other places.

The main reason for their return can be attributed to jobs under the MGNREGA scheme and the upcoming polls. Villagers are getting parallel jobs as polls are nearing. As per the zilla panchayat sources, this year, more women are utilising the MGNREGA scheme.

Officials are focusing on women, as they can come back with their families to settle in the district.

District administration, ZP and GP are promoting the campaign 'Why migrate! Get jobs in your village under Employee Guarantee scheme.' Officials are now successful in convincing migrants to come back and work from their native.

Nearly 800 people have moved back from cities, and there are thousands who are coming back this weekend.

The officials, Gram kayak mitra/Tanda Rozagar mitra and Kriyashil Kayak Bandhu members have been visiting every house in the villages to meet job card holders and convincing them to stay in the village and get absorbed in the MGNREGA project. Officials say that they have convinced many villagers in 2023-24, and hope to bring the migration rate to zero. This time, the mercury level is high, and hence the officials have planned to keep first aid boxes and drinking water facility at place of work without fail.

A staff from Gajendragad taluk panchayat said, "This year, the women attendance for MGNREGA scheme is 48.93% whereas last year it was 46.67%. Women are coming in more numbers, and senior citizens are also showing interest in employment guarantee work."

ZP CEO Bharat S said, "MGNREGA scheme is useful for senior citizens, women, specially-abled and others. We are telling them not to migrate when they have jobs in their own villages. Now, many women are also showing interest in the MGNREGA scheme."



Women in rural areas of Gadag district show their job cards and get jobs under MNREGA scheme.

9 die in chemical factory blast in T'gana

Sangareddy: As many as nine people died and 25 people were injured in a blast at a chemical factory in Sangareddy on Wednesday. The blast took place at around 4 pm, and the fire spread across the industry within no time. The impact of the blast was so severe that some buildings adjacent to the industry were also damaged. Those who were injured in the accident were shifted to hospitals immediately. Those who lost their lives are identified as Ravi Sharma the factory's director, product managers Subramanayam and Dayanand, maintenance incharge Suresh Pall. Five more unidentified bodies were recovered. It is suspected that more bodies maybe buried under the debris. Minister Konda Surekha arrived at the spot to examine the situation.

Mysterious suicides leave friends shocked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

THE mysterious deaths of three in Arunachal Pradesh has come as a huge shock for people who had known them as colleagues and friends. A couple from Kottayam - Devi Madhavan and Naveen Thomas, both Ayurveda doctors - along with their friend from Thiruvananthapuram Arya B Nair were found dead in a hotel room.

Devi used to teach German at a private school in the state capital and Arya was a French teacher in the school.

"It's shocking. I had worked with Devi for three years till 2020, and she was a very smart, pleasant and happy human being. Above all, she was a very good teacher and very active in her work. She was part of the student exchange programme and had travelled with students to Germany," said Celine KV, a former colleague of Devi.

Another colleague, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that Arya was a very good teacher. "I randomly knew her. She was a wonderful teacher who did her work well. It's shocking and unacceptable news for everybody at school," said the colleague.

The Arunachal Pradesh Police on Tuesday recovered the three bodies from a hotel room in Lower Subansiri district. Relatives suspect that the mysterious deaths are related to black magic practice. The police are however yet to confirm the same.



join their daughter who is now residing in the UK. On Wednesday, Nalini joined Murugan and others at the airport, ahead of their journey back home.

The three were among the seven convicts involved in the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. Gandhi was killed by a suicide bomber of the banned LTTE nearby Sripurambudur on May 21, 1991. Seven people were convicted in the case with four of them, including Nalini, given capital punishment, which was commuted to life. They were freed by the SC in November, 2022. Post their release, they were lodged in a special camp in Tiruchirappalli.

Another Lankan national convicted in the case, Santhan, had died here recently even as his deportation process was still underway.

IIIT-B, Akshaya Patra join hands for Miles4Meals marathon

Bengaluru: The International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIIT-Bangalore), in partnership with Akshaya Patra Foundation, is all set to organise Miles4Meals marathon, on April 7. The event aims at promoting physical fitness and supporting the cause of providing nutritious meals to underprivileged school children across India. This year, the event coincides with World Health Day. NS Dattatreya, a 95-year-old celebrity marathon runner and an inspiration also registered for the run. Prof Debabrata Das, director, IIIT-Bangalore said, "Miles4Meals is more of a movement than just a marathon. Together, we can make a significant impact in the lives of underprivileged children by providing them nutritious meals and a brighter future."

Ramdev to appear in Kerala court over 'misleading' drug ads

T'puram: Baba Ramdev is set to face legal proceedings in Kerala over alleged misleading drug promotions. The Kerala government's drugs control department is the first such state agency to file a case to prosecute Baba Ramdev and the Divya Pharmacy that he founded. He has been named third accused in the case, after the pharmacy and Acharya Balkrishna, chairman of Patanjali Ayurved. If convicted, the duo could face a jail term of up to six months and a fine. In its case, filed before the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court IV in Kozhikode, the department said that Divya Pharmacy had advertised pharmaceutical products that claimed to cure sexual impotence and diabetes.

'Launch of Virgin Atlantic in B'luru to benefit South India'

Bengaluru: Virgin Atlantic launched its maiden flight between London and Bengaluru on March 31, 2024. The airlines CEO Shai Weiss on Wednesday announced that they would launch its second daily service between London Heathrow and Mumbai in October 27, 2024. He briefed the media along with British Deputy High Commissioner to Karnataka and Kerala, Chandru Iyer about the same. The new service will be the airlines' fifth to India. Iyer said, "With the growing number of Indian business travellers, tourists and students to the UK, the addition of Virgin Atlantic to the existing air travel options would be of tremendous benefit to the entire Southern region of India, and we at the British Deputy High Commission, Bengaluru, warmly welcome Virgin Atlantic."



This government wants to scare the opposition parties. It froze our accounts. The I-T dept took ₹135 crore from our funds. Can an election be held fairly in a democracy in such a manner? Shouldn't there be a level-playing field?

Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president

**1 PHASE
ARUNACHAL
PRADESH**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 2
- Nominations filed: 33
- Nominations accepted: 31
- Nominations rejected: 2
- Nominations withdrawn: 0
- Candidates contesting: 14

KEY PLAYERS

Kiren Rijiju
BJP
Arunachal West

Nabam Tuki
INC
Arunachal West

**3 PHASES
ASSAM**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 5
- Nominations filed: 115
- Nominations accepted: 74
- Nominations rejected: 4
- Nominations withdrawn: 1
- Candidates contesting: 35

KEY PLAYERS

Sarbananda Sonowal
BJP
Dibrugarh

Gaurav Gogoi
INC
Jorhat

**7 PHASES
BIHAR**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 4
- Nominations filed: 174
- Nominations accepted: 69
- Nominations rejected: 43
- Nominations withdrawn: 1
- Candidates contesting: 38

KEY PLAYERS

Jitan Ram Manjhi
HAM
Gaya

Tariq Anwar
INC
Katihar

**3 PHASES
CHHATTISGARH**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 1
- Nominations filed: 81
- Nominations accepted: 17
- Nominations rejected: 1
- Nominations withdrawn: 0
- Candidates contesting: 11

**1 PHASE
MIZORAM**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 1
- Nominations filed: 6
- Nominations accepted: 6
- Nominations rejected: 0
- Nominations withdrawn: 0
- Candidates contesting: 6

102 parliamentary constituencies across 21 states will go to polls in the first phase on April 19. A total of 4,100 nominations were filed with the Election Commission, of which 2,114 were accepted. 863 nominations were rejected and 130 candidates withdrew their papers. Ballots will be cast for a total of 1,597 candidates in the first phase. This newspaper takes a look:

IN THE POLL FRAY

**1 PHASE
ANDAMAN &
NICOBAR**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 1
- Nominations filed: 30
- Nominations accepted: 23
- Nominations rejected: 6
- Nominations withdrawn: 1
- Candidates contesting: 12

KEY PLAYERS

D Ayyappa
CPM
ANIPC

Kuldeep Rai Sharma
INC
ANIPC

Bishnu Pada Ray
BJP, ANIPC

**5 PHASE
JAMMU &
KASHMIR**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 1
- Nominations filed: 29
- Nominations accepted: 12
- Nominations rejected: 3
- Nominations withdrawn: 0
- Candidates contesting: 12

KEY PLAYERS

Dr Jitendra Singh
BJP
Udhampur

CH Lal Singh
INC
Udhampur

**1 PHASE
UTTARAKHAND**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 5
- Nominations filed: 97
- Nominations accepted: 86
- Nominations rejected: 10
- Nominations withdrawn: 1
- Candidates contesting: 55

AAP to back Cong Mizoram candidate

AAP announced that it will support the candidate of its INDIA ally Congress in Mizoram's lone Lok Sabha seat. Polling for the seat will be held in the first phase on April 19. AAP's Mizoram unit chief Andrew Lalremkima said his party has not taken a candidate for the polls and will support Congress

Cong says Gadkari violated poll code

The Congress in Maharashtra on Wednesday wrote to the EC alleging violation of the model code of conduct by Union minister Nitin Gadkari and the BJP during his poll campaigning in Nagpur. The Congress has sought action against Gadkari for allegedly involving children in campaign

(Source: Election Commission of India)

**4 PHASES
MADHYAPRADESH**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 6
- Nominations filed: 223
- Nominations accepted: 125
- Nominations rejected: 9
- Nominations withdrawn: 19
- Candidates contesting: 88

KEY PLAYERS

Nakul Kamal Nath
INC
Chhindwara

Ashish Dubey
BJP
Jabalpur

**5 PHASES
MAHARASHTRA**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 5
- Nominations filed: 369
- Nominations accepted: 124
- Nominations rejected: 91
- Nominations withdrawn: 15
- Candidates contesting: 69

KEY PLAYERS

Nitin Gadkari
BJP
Nagpur

Vikas Thakre
INC
Nagpur

**2 PHASES
MANIPUR**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 1 + 13 assembly constituencies of Outer Manipur
- Nominations filed: 23
- Nominations accepted: 22
- Nominations rejected: 1
- Nominations withdrawn: 0
- Candidates contesting: 10

KEY PLAYERS

Angomcha Bimol Akojiam
INC
Immer Manipur

Thounaojam Basanta Kumar Singh
BJP, Inner Manipur

**1 PHASE
MEGHALAYA**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 2
- Nominations filed: 26
- Nominations accepted: 24
- Nominations rejected: 2
- Nominations withdrawn: 0
- Candidates contesting: 10

KEY PLAYERS

Agatha K Sangma
NPP
Tura

Saleng A Sangma
INC
Tura

**1 PHASE
TAMIL NADU**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 39
- Nominations filed: 1,748
- Nominations accepted: 1,096
- Nominations rejected: 575
- Nominations withdrawn: 77
- Candidates contesting: 950

KEY PLAYERS

K Kanimozhi
DMK
Thoothukudi

K Annamalai
BJP
Coimbatore

Tamilisai Soundararajan
BJP, Chennai South

Manickam Tagore B
INC, Virudhunagar

**7 PHASES
UTTAR PRADESH**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 8
- Nominations filed: 266
- Nominations accepted: 112
- Nominations rejected: 85
- Nominations withdrawn: 4
- Candidates contesting: 80

KEY PLAYERS

Jitin Prasad
BJP
Pilibhit

Chandrashekhar ASP
(Kanshi Ram)
Nagina

**2 PHASES
RAJASTHAN**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 12
- Nominations filed: 319
- Nominations accepted: 156
- Nominations rejected: 13
- Nominations withdrawn: 10
- Candidates contesting: 114

KEY PLAYERS

Arjun Ram Meghwal
BJP
Bikaner

Bhupender Yadav
BJP, Alwar

**7 PHASES
WEST BENGAL**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 3
- Nominations filed: 97
- Nominations accepted: 59
- Nominations rejected: 6
- Nominations withdrawn: 0
- Candidates contesting: 37

KEY PLAYERS

Nisith Pramanik
BJP
Cooch Behar

**1 PHASE
NAGALAND**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 1
- Nominations filed: 5
- Nominations accepted: 3
- Nominations rejected: 2
- Nominations withdrawn: 0
- Candidates contesting: 3

**1 PHASE
SIKKIM**

- Seats going for polls in Phase 1: 1
- Nominations filed: 16
- Nominations accepted: 16
- Nominations rejected: 0
- Nominations withdrawn: 0
- Candidates contesting: 14

ELECTION 2024

BJD, BJP flag each other's MCC violations in Odisha

The ruling BJD and opposition BJP in Odisha have traded allegations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations and submitted memorandums to the state's chief electoral officer against each other. The BJD accused BJP's Bargarh MP candidate Pradeep Purohit and Bilepur MLA nominee Sanat Gadia of violating MCC by attending the golden jubilee celebration of Balitika Government School. The BJP alleged that BJD MLA Nrusingha Sahu distributed sarees to women voters at programme in Dhenkanal district.

Vijender Singh joins BJP

In a jolt to the Congress, Olympian boxer Vijender Singh, who belongs to Bhiwani in Haryana, switched to the BJP on Wednesday. Vijender, 38, had supported the farmers' agitation against the now repealed farm laws and spoken up for women wrestlers against former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. He said his priority was the nation and he wanted to serve the people. "Ever since the Modi government has come to power, the kind of respect that sports persons have received across the globe is commendable," said the pugilist.



Nirupam has crossed limits, exit won't impact Cong: Chennithala

AS the Congress expelled former MP Sanjay Nirupam on Wednesday for anti-party statements, Maharashtra in-charge **Ramesh Chennithala** says that Nirupam crossed all limits despite warnings. The party's action came over his remarks against the leadership amid seat-sharing talks with Maha Vikas Aghadi ally Shiv Sena (UBT) for the Lok Sabha polls. In an interview with **Preetha Nair**, Chennithala said Nirupam's expulsion won't impact the party. Excerpts:

The Congress expelled Sanjay Nirupam for anti-party statements and indiscipline...

I received a report from the Maharashtra party unit yesterday recommending strict disciplinary action against Nirupam. I sent the report to the Congress president yesterday and the decision was taken yesterday itself. He crossed all limits by continuously attacking the party and making controversial statements to the media despite warnings. State leaders wanted strong action because of his provocative remarks. The party has always considered him an important leader, yet he went against the party.

Nirupam wanted to contest from Mumbai North West. Why didn't the party accept his demand?

The current political situation in the country warrants all non-BJP parties to come together to fight against the ruling government. That is why we formed the

INDIA bloc. Seats have to be shared among the allies in an amicable way. Nirupam wanted to contest this particular seat which Shiv Sena did not want to part with.

The party has seen a couple of high-profile exits recently. Ashok Chavan, Milind Deora, Baba Siddique, and now the expulsion of Nirupam... Isn't it a setback for the party?

No setback at all. The workers and sympathisers are solidly behind the party. The support for the party was evident in the huge turnout in the recent Mumbai rally.

Wasn't the Congress also unhappy about Shiv Sena announcing candidates for Sangli and Mumbai South-Central seats?

In a coalition, every party will ask for more seats. So we are also having reservations about some seats, but it will be discussed.

There was speculation that Congress may go for a friendly fight in disputed seats...

When we are in alliance, there should be some clarity and friendly fights will not help anybody. Alliance should be intact.

When will you announce the candidates for Maharashtra?

We are hoping to announce the names of the candidates in two or three days.

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Election Commission of India (EC) on Wednesday directed all chief secretaries, Director Generals of Police (DGPs), and heads of Central agencies, including border guarding forces, to ensure peaceful Lok Sabha elections.

The poll panel, which held a high-level review meeting with senior officials from across the country, including those from states, Union Territories and Union ministries of home and defence, has also asked them to take preemptive measures to address communal tensions.

A senior EC official told this newspaper that the directives were aimed at maintaining law and order, preventing illicit activities and upholding integrity of the electoral process, adding that the recent violence in Manipur and its ramifications for the conduct of a peaceful election were also discussed.

The officials were asked to take swift action to assist internally-displaced persons and ensure their participation in the electoral process, they said. "In his remarks, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said it is the 'most important and crucial' deliberation that takes place every five years of the election cycle," the poll panel said in a statement.

The EC had convened the meeting to bring all the stakeholders concerned on one platform for a seamless coordination and cooperation among the officials of neighbouring states and UTs, it said.

"Key issues discussed during

EC meets chief secys, DGPs to firm up plans



CEC Rajiv Kumar and ECs Gyanesh Kumar and SS Sandhu meet chief secretaries, DGPs and CAPF heads at Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi on Wednesday | pm

the meeting included enhanced coordination among neighbouring states and UTs, deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), logistical support for CAPF movement, identification and monitoring of potential flashpoints, preemptive measures to address communal tensions, and securing porous borders against illegal activities," a senior EC official said.

Attention was laid on curbing the movement of contraband items such as "narcotics,

liquor, arms and explosives" across international borders. Directions have also been issued to identify exit and entry points for the movement of illicit goods, he added.

Since officials from the Ministry of Defence were present in the meeting, the commission reviewed support from the Indian Air Force for sorties to ferry polling teams in challenging regions of 11 states, including Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

Key issues discussed included enhanced coordination among neighbouring states, deployment of Central Armed Police Forces, identification of potential flashpoints, preemptive measures to address communal tensions, and securing porous borders

Election Commission official

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

MANMOHAN SINGH, A HELMSMAN OF THE POST-NEHRUVIAN ERA

MANMOHAN Singh, India's 13th prime minister, who had the third longest tenure in the office after Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, has retired from the Rajya Sabha after a long, distinguished and sometimes controversial political innings. Lavish praise was heaped on the 91-year-old former premier from both sides of the aisle. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge posted, "Very few people have accomplished as much as you for the nation and its people." Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted that his predecessor often attended the Rajya Sabha on a wheelchair.

Singh is more an academician and economist than a politician. It reflects in his quiet, almost shy, demeanour. His slow delivery was at times mistaken for indecisiveness. Towards the end of his second term, he attracted the opposition's charge of turning a Nelson's eye to corruption. His silence during stormy public debates drew the epithet of 'maun-Mohan' from his detractors. But he was always a reluctant politician. An economist who graduated from the University of Oxford, he served in many advisory posts and as governor of the Reserve Bank before entering politics. He did so well as a consultant to two prime ministers that he was called upon to be finance minister when, in 1991, the country was on the brink of an economic crisis.

Singh fronted PMP V Narasimha Rao's liberalisation era that set off India's first post-independence economic boom. There was no indecisiveness in this stint: Singh devalued the rupee, opened up a spectrum of poorly-performing state-run industries, dismantled the License Raj, lowered taxes to levels hitherto unseen, and made foreign investment an attractive proposition for the first time. It was a sharp break from Nehruvian socialism, which had depended heavily on public sector monopolies and high taxation to turn the wheels of the economy.

Then came Manmohan Singh 2.0, when Sonia Gandhi unexpectedly chose him as prime minister after the Congress won the 2004 Lok Sabha polls. As an economist-politician, Singh addressed rural poverty with the groundbreaking employment guarantee scheme. The Right to Information Act, a path-breaking legislation for transparency in public affairs, and the Indo-US civil nuclear pact, too, were breaks from the Nehruvian past and new chapters in India's growth story on the world stage. As the reluctant politician enters a well-deserved retirement, let us not forget that he always contributed more than his quietude suggested.

FOLLOW KARNATAKA IN SHIFT TO E-MOBILITY

KARNATAKA is racing ahead in the electric vehicles sector, clocking sales of 1.6 lakh vehicles in 2023-24 and coming in at the third place after the much more populous Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. EV registrations in Karnataka have grown a whopping 1,275 percent over the last three years: the state now has 3.4 lakh two-, three- and four-wheeler EVs, compared to only 9,703 registered in 2020. In this, Karnataka has been keeping up with a southern trend—the state along with Kerala and Tamil Nadu accounted for a third of all EV sales in India in calendar year 2023. The latest surge was in line with the national trend of a sales rush witnessed in March.

Karnataka—home to Ather Energy and Ola Electric, the biggest two-wheeler EV manufacturers—is a pioneer that formulated the first electric vehicle policy in India in 2017. Ever since, it has done everything to put in place a robust e-mobility ecosystem. Its revised EV policy aims at getting ₹50,000 crore in investment and creating over a lakh jobs. It boasts of the largest number of charging stations—over 5,000 across the state and more than 4,000 in Bengaluru Urban alone; more than 3,000 new stations are being planned. The latest state budget envisaged roping in power supply companies in public-private partnerships to set up charging stations. The transport department is looking to bolster infrastructure along the state and national highways, which would encourage EV owners to use their vehicles for long journeys too. While EVs were exempt from taxes for many years, the state has now imposed a lifetime tax of 10 percent on vehicles that cost upwards of ₹25 lakh. This is bound to pinch buyers, but is not likely to dent the booming market.

Karnataka's moves towards e-mobility, an admirable example for other states, could not have come sooner considering the rising cost of fossil fuels and increasing pollution. By one count, the 20 most polluted cities in the world are in India. And green mobility is both eco-friendly and economical. With governments doing their best to incentivise the sector, EVs are likely to make greater inroads in both urban and rural areas. The shift from fossil fuels to clean energy is inevitable. The sooner India shifts gears towards e-mobility, the faster we can reduce our carbon footprint and get closer to the net zero goal.

QUICK TAKE

PREPARING FOR A BIG SHAKE

THOUGH nine people died when the biggest in-a-quarter-century earthquake hit Taiwan, what surprised many urban planners was the limited scale of damages in a 7.4-magnitude rattle. The island nation, which sits on the Pacific 'ring of fire', has prepared for such a calamity for long. The survival of its tallest skyscraper, the 508-metre Taipei 101, is emblematic of this thinking—it's built like a bamboo, using 'notches' to make it malleable and employing shock absorbers that make it sway rather than topple. India, which is also lined by restive tectonic plates, should redouble its efforts to enforce sturdier building codes and conduct drills for its uneasy citizens.

MUCH ink has already been spilt on the recent controversy around the conferring of the Sangita Kalanidhi award by the Madras Music Academy to T M Krishna. His detractors feel outraged. They see him as an activist daring to step out of his proper place as a dignified, discreet master of the genre and questioning such non-musical subjects as professional conventions, caste and privilege. To them, he has shown himself to be devoid of 'Hindu' sensibilities. They claim to be offended to the extent that they have pulled out of the forthcoming music season at the Academy and have expressed their reservations in print.

What is striking about these expressions of outrage is that they seemingly have nothing to do with Krishna's stature and accomplishments as a musician but everything to do with his activism, which they see as being anti-Brahmin, anti-Hindu and therefore, by default, anti-Carnatic. It is in the collapsing of these categories that we actually find an implicit and rigid fixing of certain prescriptions that make for an appropriate Carnatic musician who should communicate not only his/her virtuosity but also her *bhakti*/devotion, which is foregrounded as a vital aesthetic value.

What is often overlooked in these discourses is that these values were put in place quite recently, over the course of the 20th century, when nationalism in its cultural iterations placed music and performance practices within a very particular template, in which the Madras Academy played a major role. It was no mean accomplishment, for it widened a listening habit within a modern urban setting, albeit to a small self-selecting community of connoisseurs whose location enabled them to play the role of gatekeepers and facilitate the transition of art music's social location from the court, temple or salon to the modern concert stage. This involved a serious engagement with the aesthetics of vocalisation and percussion, with standardisation and anthologising of compositions and melodies that were seen as vital for the modern institutionalisation of Carnatic music.

The project was not without casualties—hereditary communities did not get to tell their story, the subtleties of which were lost in the overall wave of enthusiasm for musical reform. Musicians participated enthusiastically in the deliberations of the Madras Academy, and this is what made the Academy in its

The row over an award bestowed on TMK raises questions on his detractors' ire at his criticism of social exclusion and on the place of spirituality in music

REVERBERATIONS FROM AN UNEQUAL MUSIC

LAKSHMI SUBRAMANIAN

Former professor of history, CSSS Kolkata, and former visiting professor, BITS Pilani Goa



SOURAB ROY

early years an interesting experiment where the gap between those who preached and those who practised music was bridged. Subsequently, the Academy went on to consolidate its status as a premier sponsor of classical music, becoming, as some detractors would have it, like a prestigious club whose members had to stay in line. The unwritten rules were the celebration of an aesthetic and its accompanying accessories, the gatekeeping of which was the responsibility of the Academy and its stakeholders.

Cut to the present: the questions that the recent controversy raises are two-fold. First, how and whether T M Krishna has in fact questioned the unwritten rules and, if so, what does that

say about the larger question of spirituality and music? How has spirituality been understood? Was it about the self-conscious celebration of devotee singers like Tyagaraja, or did it attempt to go beyond? Sadly, the refinement of the *bhakti* and *bhava* aesthetic has meant that any questioning is seen as taboo. This is not to question the primacy of composition in Carnatic music, or to take away its salience as the scaffolding for musical expression, but to simply engage more subtly with the idea of spirituality. Does the singer or the listener have to be a believer and practitioner? Surely one can be moved by Aabida Parveen's rendering of a Bulleh Shah couplet or of a *kriti* by Krishna even if one is not inte-

THE CHRONICLE OF A MISSTEP FORETOLD

KAJAL BASU

Veteran journalist

and represented six Nobel winners—died in 2015 aged 85, a doyenne of the star-blessed *Boom latinoamericano* of 1959-71, with Mario Vargas Llosa, Carlos Fuentes, Julio Cortázar and Márquez as its, and her, drum-majors. She was fiercely protective of the man affectionately known as Gabo. However, disencumbered of her untameable ownership of Márquez, her Barcelona-based Agencia Carmen Bal-



Gabriel García Márquez, a literary giant who passed a decade ago, didn't want his novella *Until August* to see the light of day. But a series of manoeuvres between his estate managers and publishers got it out. It raises questions on posthumous publication

cells would go on to sell his North American rights to Knopf in 2023, while the manuscript was still being polished.

Knopf wasn't in Balcells' sights. She had been confabulating with Andrew Wylie in 2014, the year before her demise. Here is where things get interesting, as they can only get with shadowy big publishing. While no one quite knows why Balcells and Wylie didn't tie the literary knot, in 2015 the Andrew Wylie Agency España was set up to handle Spanish-language authors. Hired to helm it editorially was Cristóbal Pera, who was known to have an excellent rapport with Márquez's sons.

Then Knopf became the dark horse, nicked Cristóbal Pera, and made him the editor of *Until August* even as it co-

opted Márquez's sons with the insidious aplomb of big capital.

Meanwhile, the lives of Márquez and Balcells finally mirrored each other. As Márquez's sons took over his estate—their mother having followed their father in 2020—Balcells' son Luis Miquel Palomares took over the work of shepherding her writers, despite being not very interested. The sons of two luminaries connected at the hip came together to deny each the pleasure of the ultimate wish—the brothers Barcha Márquez's and Palomares Balcells'. Thus was born *Until August*, a book neither the author nor his publishing representative wanted to see the light of day.

It is deeply saddening that Márquez's novella—a collection of set pieces with a protagonist as the ringmistress—should be so underwhelming when other writers whose incomplete novels were posthumously published had more salutary fates. Roberto Bolaño never said of his unfinished masterpiece *2666* a month before his death in 2023, "There are more than a thousand pages I have to correct. It's a job for a 19th century miner." Published a year later, it made his reputation. Franz Kafka told his friend Max Brod, whom he had named the administrator of his estate, to burn his unpublished work. A year after Kafka's death in 1924, Brod had *The Trial* published; the year after, *The Castle*, and *Amerika* in 1927. Brod's intransigence settled Kafka's reserved doubts about his work.

But it is difficult not to understand why Márquez wanted this manuscript buried. Lit by his ability to pack many thoughts in a phrase, the notes of his words rise off the page, but only here and there. There are clunkers aplenty that he would never have let pass, marginalia he would have marginalised. I could find only one paragraph that was truly, ineffably redolent of Márquez.

"We did think about it for about three seconds.... We decided, yes, it was a betrayal. But that's what children are for."

Perhaps it might be wise not to leave the management of legacies to the managers of estates.

(Views are personal)
(kajalbasu@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Cruel policy

Ref: Insurance regulator misses chance to cut surrender charges (Apr 3). The surrender value factor of 30 percent in the third year of an insurance policy is cruel. The IRDAI should have some concerns for policyholders as well as for insurers.

Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery

Placating voters

Ref: Balance between demographic concerns and human rights (Apr 3). The CAA is solely for providing Indian citizenship to non-Muslim refugees who are religiously persecuted from neighbouring Muslim countries. Since Muslim migration is unlikely to occur, they are precluded. Opposition parties are trying to incite religious sentiments to placate their minority vote banks.

B V Thampi, email

Not acquitted

Nowadays, whenever a political leader or don gets bail from a court, their supporters erupt in joy as if they have been acquitted. The fault lies with our judiciary. Once bail is given, cases take years to come up for hearing, giving great respite to the accused. One can see so many political leaders roaming freely with all privileges despite being out on bail.

Hemanth Bhide, Mangaluru

Fighting corruption

The hue and cry about the danger to democracy only happens when politicians are touched. Our enforcement agencies are doing a great job of weeding out corruption by sending shivers down the spine of erring politicians.

Ullattil Pakiteeri Raghunathan, Thrissur

Accepted boundary

It is unfortunate that Narendra Modi took up Katattheevu as an issue to gain sympathy from the fisherfolk of Tamil Nadu for a narrow political gain, without realising that our relationship with Sri Lanka will be stained. The issue was cleared by the Supreme Court during the UPA government in 2013. It must be recollected that the Centre in 2022 declared that the island lies on the Sri Lankan side of the international maritime boundary.

Rajakumar Arulandham, Palayamkottai

Neighbourhood strains

It is a matter of serious introspection that the PM has raked up the Katattheevu issue that will surely result in a controversy. India has estranged relations with Pakistan and the Maldives. The opposition in Bangladesh and Nepal have been challenging their government over their ties to us. It would be better if the PM heeded diplomats over this issue and not strain the relationship with Sri Lanka too.

Haribandhu Panigrahi, Tarbha



Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
Amit Malviya has reached a new height of absurdity. He is well known for lying about statistics, but today he has invented a new way to lie!



Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda
INDI alliance is an alliance formed only to protect corruption and nepotism. All of them have been involved in big scam



Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Now even top institutions like IITs have come under the grip of 'unemployment disease'.

■ Probe agency submits that her name was added 'inadvertently' ■ Sharad Pawar says 'clock' a temporary symbol

Delete Bansuri's name from Singh's bail order: SC to ED

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to delete the name of advocate Bansuri Swaraj from the bail order of AAP leader Sanjay Singh after the probe agency said her name was added "inadvertently".

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Dipankar Datta and P B Varale while allowing the mentioning of the ED, said, "Ok, we will correct the order. The needful would be done accordingly."

Before passing the order, the court heard the mentioning from the ED counsel Zoheb Hossain, who said Swaraj did not appear in the case nor did she represent the agency in the matter and requested the SC to remove her name.

It is to be noted that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament (MP), Sanjay Singh was granted bail on Tuesday by the top court on ED's concession in the "peculiar facts" of the case, as it told the SC that it did not want his further custody in the case anymore.

Hossain said that due to some

ALSO IN TOP COURT SC transfers drug case to Gujarat court

In a relief to the National Investigation Agency, the Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed its plea and ordered that a heroin smuggling case allegedly linked to the sensational Mundra port drug haul be transferred from a court in Punjab's Hoshiarpur to a special NIA court in Gujarat's Ahmedabad. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has filed a case in Gujarat and the second case is pending before a special court in Saket. The third case is pending before the court of the additional sessions judge in Hoshiarpur. The NIA wanted the Punjab case to be transferred to Ahmedabad for an effective trial. In September 2021, DRI officials had found 2,988 kg heroin in a talc powder consignment at Mundra port. The consignment was imported from Afghanistan.



inadvertent error, her name is reflected in the appearance slip. "Inadvertent error crept into the recording of the appearance. Ms Bansuri Swaraj was neither engaged nor did she appear in the matter," he added.

While mentioning that a formal application was moved in the SC, Hossain said, the error might be on the part of the central agency "mechanically" giving names of advocates, he prayed to the SC that the appearance may be corrected.

Bansuri Swaraj is a BJP candidate from the New Delhi parliamentary constituency for

the Lok Sabha polls.

On Tuesday, the SC ordered Singh to be released on bail, as the accused had spent six months in the Tihar jail for his alleged involvement in the money laundering scam. He walked out of the jail on Wednesday. A Delhi court directed Singh not to tamper with evidence in the case earlier in the day.

Singh was also asked by Special Judge Kaveri Baweja to submit passport, inform it about itinerary before leaving NCR, and to always keep his phone location on.

SC status check on ads of Ajit Pawar-led NCP

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to furnish details on whether it has complied with its order against using the name of Sharad Pawar and putting a disclaimer on use of the 'clock' symbol during campaigns.



'Simple language'

The court made it clear that none has a right to "deliberately misconstrue its order" when it passed the order on March 19 and was worded in 'simple language' and there was no room for misinterpretation.

It asked Ajit Pawar faction to apprise it on the disclaimer issue, after hearing a plea filed by Sharad Pawar group alleging that the Ajit Pawar group has not complied with the court direction to publish disclaimers in all their advertisements that the use of 'clock' symbol by them is a sub-judice matter.

It asked the Ajit Pawar group as to how many advertisements were published after the court order.

In its March 19 order, the court had directed Ajit Pawar faction to issue a public notice in English, Hindi and Marathi mentioning in campaign advertisements that the 'clock' symbol allotted to it is subject to the adjudication of the plea filed by Sharad Pawar-led faction.

On February 12, the Sharad Pawar-led faction had moved the top court challenging the decision of the ECI to recognise Ajit Pawar faction as the real NCP.

Ex-judge among 4 Bengal BJP leaders given VIP security

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to extend Central force's security cover to former Calcutta High Court Judge and BJP leader Abhijit Gangopadhyay and former TMC MP Arjun Singh, among four leaders of the BJP in the state ahead of polls, officials said on Wednesday.

BJP's district-level leaders Abhijit Barman and Tapas Das are granted security protection by the personnel of Central Industrial Security Force's (CISF) VIP security wing. Barman and Das have been given security under the 'X' category. Gangopadhyay has been granted security under the 'Y+' category, while Arjun Singh has been given security under the 'Z' category and they will be protected by the commandos of the Central Reserve Police Force.

It is to be noted that Gangopadhyay and Singh recently joined the BJP. Their shift to BJP underscores the significance of their security arrangements amid the changing political landscape in the state, the officials said.

Gangopadhyay and Singh



were accorded the security cover by the MHA on March 27, days after they joined the BJP, while Barman and Das were granted the facility on March 29, said officials.

Gangopadhyay joined the BJP days after he resigned as Calcutta High Court judge. The former judge made headlines last year, after an interview in which he discussed a case he was hearing. Almost 20 months after he severed ties with the BJP to join the TMC, Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh returned to the BJP last month.

In response to heightened safety concern, the MHA granted security cover to the four BJP leaders ahead of the Lok Sabha elections beginning on April 19 in seven phases across India, the officials said.

12 Rajya Sabha members sworn in, Sonia Gandhi set to enter House

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

RAJYA Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Thakur on Wednesday swore in 12 newly elected members of the Rajya Sabha in the presence of deputy chairman Harivansh.

An official statement said Dharmshila Gupta, Manoj Kumar Jha, Sanjay Yadav, Govindbhai Laljibhai Dholakia, Subhash Chander, Harsh Mahajan, GC Chandrashekhar, L Murugan, Ashok Singh, Chandrakant Handore, Medha Vishram Kulkarni and Sadhna Singh were sworn in.

From April 3, their Rajya Sabha tenure begins for the next 6 years. Of the 12 MPs who took oath, seven are from the BJP, three from Congress and two from the Rashtriya Janata Dal.

Three of the 12 MPs are from Bihar, 2 each from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, and one each from Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, the terms of 54 mem-



54 MPs retired in April

As many as 54 members of the Rajya Sabha retired on April 2 and 3. Those administered oath are Dharmshila Gupta, Manoj Kumar Jha, Sanjay Yadav, Subhash Chander, Harsh Mahajan, GC Chandrashekhar, L Murugan, Ashok Singh, Chandrakant Handore, Medha Vishram Kulkarni and Sadhna Singh.

bers of the Rajya Sabha ended on Tuesday and Wednesday (April 2 and 3). Among them 49 completed their tenure on Tuesday, five, including former prime minister Manmohan Singh, completed their terms on Wednesday.

Of the 54 Rajya Sabha MPs whose terms ended on Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 are Union ministers. Dr Manmohan Singh's Rajya Sabha term ended on Wednesday after the former PM remained active in his 33-year-long parliamentary career.

Sonia Gandhi is all set to become a member of the Upper

House for the first time from Rajasthan, filling the seat that will fall vacant after 91-year-old Singh completed his tenure on April 3.

Official sources said the terms of 7 Union ministers -- Dharamendra Pradhan, Mansukh Mandaviya, Purushottam Rupala, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, V Muraliedharan, Narayan Rane and L Murugan -- ended their RS terms on Tuesday. The term of environment minister Bhupendra Yadav and railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw ended on Wednesday. Vaishnaw has already been elected for the next term in Rajya Sabha.

Spain hopeful of bigger transport aircraft order

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

THE second C-295 transport aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space, which is expected to be delivered shortly, is a part of Spain's commitment to deliver 56 such aircraft to the Indian Air Force after a deal worth ₹21,935 crore was signed.

Spain's Ambassador to India Jose Maria Ridao, in an exclusive interaction with this newspaper, said that this order could be increased up to 100 units or more. "We are happy to collaborate with India on this project and as you may recall that the first aircraft was delivered in September. The first 16 will be built in Seville and the remaining 40 in Vadorada. However, I am optimistic that this order could be increased up to 100 units or more," Ridao said.

These aircraft will replace IAF's ageing Avro-748 fleet. Spain is also pitching for an order of submarines and has invited Indian naval officials to Madrid. In July 2023, Spanish company Navantia and engineering major Larsen and TUBRO signed a teaming agree-



ment for submitting techno-commercial bid for the Indian Navy's P75 submarine programme.

"The Indian Navy officials, when they visit Spain, can see for themselves the technological advancement of the submarines," said Ambassador Ridao. Project 75 requires the Indian bidder to tie up with a foreign collaborator and execute the delivery of six conventional submarines equipped with Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) while achieving targeted indig-

enous content. Expected to be valued at Euro 4.8 billion (₹43,000 crore), this will be amongst India's largest defence projects. Meanwhile, Spain is India's sixth largest trading partner in the European Union. India's exports to Spain in 2023 were worth Euro 5.847 million while Spain's export to India were Euro 1.7779 million.

"There are over 250 Spanish companies in India, and we have bilateral trade visits with India. These include delegations from West Bengal and

Pitch for submarines

Spain is pitching for an order of submarines and has invited Indian naval officials to Madrid. In July 2023, Spanish company Navantia and engineering major Larsen and TUBRO signed a teaming agreement for submitting techno-commercial bid for the Indian Navy's P75 submarine programme. Project 75 requires the Indian bidder to tie up with a foreign collaborator and execute the delivery of six conventional submarines equipped with Air Independent Propulsion while achieving targeted indigenous content.

Australia, India navies to step up engagement, training exchanges

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

IN a series of top military-level interactions with Australia, Chief of Royal Australian Navy Vice Admiral Mark Hammond met Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, on Wednesday. Admiral Hammond is on a five-day visit.

The Indian Navy said discussions focused on avenues to strengthen bilateral maritime cooperation, including increased operational engagements, training exchanges and information sharing.

Admiral Hammond laid a ceremonial wreath at the National War Memorial and was thereafter welcomed with the customary guard of honour presented by the Indian Navy at South Block. The Admiral is also scheduled to call on the Chief of the Defence Staff, IAF chief and defence secretary.

He will also visit the Southern Naval Command in Kochi and Western Naval Command in Mumbai where he will interact with commanders-in-chiefs.

Australia and India upgraded their bilateral relationship from 'strategic partnership' in 2009 to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2020. Over the years, an array of in-



stitutional mechanisms has been put in place to promote bilateral cooperation.

"India and Australia share the commonality of perspective on several contemporary maritime security issues in the Indo-Pacific and have been working together closely in several bilateral and multilateral forums, the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium IONS, Western Pacific Naval Symposium, ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus and Quad, the Indian Navy said.

Following the participation of the Royal Australian Ship HMNAS Warramunga, an Anzac Class Frigate, during the multinational exercise Milan 24 and recently conducted maritime exercises, the visit further consolidates the strong relations between both navies.

Learning graph: Revised textbooks for Class III, VI from April, says NCERT

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

NEW textbooks for Classes III and VI under the revamped syllabus will be available in April and May, respectively, said National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Chief Dinesh Prasad Saklani on Wednesday.

Saklani said that textbooks of other classes will be updated and revised, keeping new developments in mind.

The NCERT has also prepared a 15-day foundation course for Class III and a month-long bridge programme for Class VI so that children affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) can adjust to the new syllabus.

"We have introduced a bridge course so there is no gap in their learning when they start studying from the new books. Teachers will also be given training before they start teaching," he said.

He added, "The plan to release the books was made as Class III marks the start of preparatory, while Class VI marks the beginning of the middle stages." Books for other classes will be brought out next year. Three new subjects, art education, physical education and



World around Us, have been introduced for Class III. "Books of these three new subjects will be out by April 15-20; the rest of the revised books are already ready," he said.

Earlier, they had English, Hindi, Maths and Environmental Studies. Environmental Studies have been removed and World Around Us has been introduced. For Class VI, vocational education has been made mandatory in line with the New Education Policy 2020.

He said that these books needed revamping to align with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education, developed based on the vision of the NEP 2020. "The new books are based on holistic learning, technology and innovation, and are totally rooted on the idea of Bharat. It is in line with NEP 2020," he added.

The NCERT every year revises or updates books keeping

Foundation course

The NCERT has also prepared a 15-day foundation course for Class III and a month-long bridge programme for Class VI so that children affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) can adjust to the new syllabus.

new information or development in mind. "We want children to read new information. We have a new Parliament, which has been introduced in the books. Sometimes, we are informed about a mistake, then we correct it," he said.

NCERT will be rolling out new textbooks in a phased manner. Last year, the Centre had brought out books for the foundational years in the age group of 3 to 8 years.

The NCERT also said that it is making efforts to provide school books on time, and about 33 lakh books for other classes have been printed and delivered to bookshops so far.

The NCERT's decision to launch the textbooks comes after the CBSE recently directed all its affiliated schools to adopt the new syllabi and textbooks for Classes III and VI from the upcoming academic year.

DELHI HC RESERVES VERDICT ON KEJRI

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

CLAIMING innocence in the excise policy scam, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday told the Delhi High Court that his arrest right after enforcing the Model Code of Conduct for the general elections, was meant to humiliate, insult and disable him and his party.

"This case reeks of timing issues. The timing issue ensures that I (Kejriwal) am unable to participate in a democratic activity and also to disintegrate and demolish my party before the first vote is cast," Abhishek Manu Singhvi, senior advocate for Kejriwal, charged.

Justice Swarnam Kanta Sharma re-

served the verdict, which is expected by next week. Opposing Singhvi, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate, said: "suppose a political person commits murder two days before the elections, does it mean he could not be arrested? Aam aadmi has to go behind bars if he has committed a crime but because you are a CM you can't be arrested?"

On how statements by four individuals were sufficient to arrest a CM, Raju said, "Whether a statement is to be believed or not is a matter of trial." He added that Kejriwal was arrested because of twin factors — his individual role; and in his capacity as chief of AAP, which was the beneficiary of the scam.



EXPRESS READ

Centre asks states to plan for heat relief measures

New Delhi: The Centre has directed the states to draw up a plan to deal with an expected heat wave across the country. A review on Wednesday by the Centre and the states focused on giving relief to people from the scorching sun ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who chaired a meeting to review public health preparedness for managing heat-related illness, said it is essential to take timely action as soon as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues alert. "It is also known that the general election 2024 is at its doorstep in which wide public participation is expected. It is our responsibility to take care of everyone's health," Mandaviya said. **ENS**



SAINIK SCHOOL KODAGU
(Under Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)
PO Kudige Dist Kodagu
Karnataka PIN 571232
Phone (08276) 201000

TENDER NOTICE
The school invites sealed tenders for supply of cadets uniform and running tailor shop.
For details and tender documents visit school website **www.sainikschoolkodagu.edu.in** and the tender documents can also be downloaded from e-procurement web page **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALURU
L.A.C.NO. 94 / 2019

BETWEEN:
Late Sri. Narasimhaliah @Narasimha Shastri
Represented by his Legal heirs & Anr. ...Claimant
And:
The Special Land Acquisition ...Respondent
NOTICE TO CLAIMANT NO. 1(A) & (B)
(1A) Sri. Knashnaswamy S/o Sri. Narasimhaiah @ Narasimha Shastri, Aged about 77 years,
(1B) Sri. Vishwanath S/o Sri. Narasimhaiah @ Narasimha Shastri, Aged about 72 years, Residing near Sri Rama Mandira, Nelamangala Town, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
Whereas this notice to Claimant No. 1(a) & (b) is published deeming you to appear before the city civil Court, (COH-17) Bangalore on 27.06.2024 if you fail to appear before this Court on that day either in person or through your counsel failing which you will be placed ex parte or the above proceedings shall be decided in your absence in accordance of law.
This Notice is given under my seal of this Court on 2.4.2024 under my signature By Order of the Court
Sd/- Senior Sheristadar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Claimant No. 2:
M.R. Ravindra, Advocate,
No. 4, Panava Complex, Opp. Fashion Factory, 5th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that, my client **Dr. Noor Ul Hassan** Resident of Bangalore is willing to purchase Schedule Property from its owner **MR. Veeradiipaya & Others residing at Kottige Machenahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddabalgapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District 561204.**
Any person having any right, title, interest or any claim whatsoever on the Schedule Property shall inform the undersigned along with all supporting documents establishing their claim within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.
If no claim/objection is received within stipulated time, it will be presumed that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances and my client would proceed to purchase in his favour.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Sy.No.35/9 (old Sy.No.35/5) situated at Kottige Machenahalli village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddabalgapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District measuring 1-88.08 (one acre and half guntas) and 0-03.08 guntas kharab land attached to it, bounded on
East by: Property belonging to Mr. Kulkallahalli Lakshmayya, **West by:** Property belonging to Mr.Chikka Veeradiibayya & Boramma, **North by:** Property belonging to Mr.Chikka Veeradiibayya & Boramma, **South by:** Property belonging to Mr.Chikka Veeradiibayya & Boramma
Naveed Ahmed, Advocate
No.19/19, 1st Floor, Miller Road, 1st Cross, Benson Town, Bangalore 560046
Ph: 9620245382
email: seenaveed@gmail.com
Date: 03-04-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client This is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client **Sri. Keshava .R. S/o. Ramachandrappa, Aged about 39 years, R/at. Mandibele Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** has intending to purchase the schedule Property from its present owner viz., **Smt. Ammayamma W/o. Late D.M. Krishnappa, and family members, R/at Ward No.20, Pattapargudi Beedi, Channarayapetne Road, Devanahalli Town, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District..**
If any third party/s Person/s has/have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, clients, charges or lien over the schedule property they are hear by requested to file the objections to this sale transaction or mortgage of said property to the financial intuitions /Bank /third parties and shell informed/said object the same in writing along with the photocopies, related such claims, objections through the RPAD with the under mentioned address within **10 days** from the publication of this notice.
If no valid claim/objections are received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction deeming that apart from the aforesaid owner no one else has/have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the schedule property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of agricultural property bearing property bearing Sy.No.146 measuring 3 acre 16 guntas and including 0-24 guntas Kharab, situated at **Poolanahalli Village, ChannarayapattanaHobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**
K.V. MAHENDRA KUMAR, Advocate 1st Floor, Abhay Complex, Above Union Bank, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli -562 110. Mob: 9538276877



Can Fin Homes Ltd
1st Floor, Raja Rao Complex
Tippu Sultan Road, Devanahalli-562 110.
Ph: 080-27682007, M: 7625079177
E-Mail Id: devanahalli@canfinhomes.com
CIN No: L85110KA1987PLC008699

DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13(2) of "The Securitisation and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)"
To,
1.Mr.Hemanth Kumar , S/o Sridharamurthy. (Borrower), No.140/B, 9th Cross, Margosa Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003
2. Mrs.Jayashree.S.P. W/o Hemanth Kumar, (Co- Borrower), No.140/B, 9th Cross, Margosa Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003.
3.Mr.Rakshith Sudhi. S/o Govind Raju, (Guarantor), No. 16, 1st Cross ITI Layout, Nayandahalli, Bangalore-560039
You have availed a housing loan from our branch against the security of mortgage of the following asset belonging to you. An amount of **Rs.35,83,675/-** (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Five Only) is due from you, to Can Fin Homes Ltd. as on 02.04.2024 together with future interest at the contracted rate.
Details of the mortgaged Property: Residential property situated at Site No 54 and Site No.27, Sy No.109, BBMP Katha No.54/409/54 and 27/109/27 situated at Singapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,Bangalore measuring East to West 20 ft & North to south 60 ft in all measuring 1200 square Feet and bounded as follows. To the East: Property of Site no.55 and 26, To the West: Property of Site no.53 and 28, To the North: 30 ft Road, To the South: 30 ft Road.
The Schedule Property Consists of 1200 Square feet RCC Roofed House, Constructed Ground floor and first, Second floor with Bricks and Cement, Granite Flooring, Honne Wood Doors and Windows with own Borewell, with all basic civic amenities.
Registered demand notice was sent to you under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, but the same was returned unserved. The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrower/s as per the said Act. Hence this paper publication. As you have failed to adhere to the terms of the sanction, the account is classified as a Non Performing Asset on. **30.03.2024** as per the NHB Guidelines. The borrowers and any others claiming under them are hereby called upon to pay the above said amount with contracted rateof interest thereon from **02.04.2024** within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which the undersigned will be constrained to Initiate action under SARFAESI Act to enforce the aforesaid security. Further, the attention of borrowers / guarantors is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (6) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Limited
Place: Bengaluru
Date : 03.04.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client This is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client **Sri. Keshava .R. S/o. Ramachandrappa, Aged about 39 years, R/at.Mandibele Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** has intending to purchase the schedule Property from its present owner viz., **Sri.Shibramurthy S/o. Late Anantharamiah, and family members, R/at. House No.395/1, Agrahara, K.R.Mohalla, Veene Shamanna Road, Mysore.**
If any third party/s Person/s has/have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, clients, charges or lien over the schedule property they are hear by requested to file the objections to this sale transaction or mortgage of said property to the financial intuitions / Bank/third parties and shell informed/said object the same in writing along with the photocopies, related such claims, objections through the RPAD with the under mentioned address within **10 days** from the publication of this notice.
If no valid claim/objections are received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction deeming that apart from the aforesaid owner no one else has/have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the schedule property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of agricultural property bearing property bearing Sy.No.43/1 measuring 2 acre 20 guntas, situated at **Poolanahalli Village, ChannarayapattanaHobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**
K.V. MAHENDRA KUMAR, Advocate 1st Floor, Abhay Complex, Above Union Bank, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli -562 110. Mob: 9538276877

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client This is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client **Sri. Keshava .R. S/o. Ramachandrappa, Aged about 39 years, R/at.Mandibele Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** has intending to purchase the schedule Property from its present owner viz., **Sri. Ashwathappa .D.B S/o Late Doddabhyrappa, and family members, R/at Dandiganahalli Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District..**
If any third party/s Person/s has/have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, clients, charges or lien over the schedule property they are hear by requested to file the objections to this sale transaction or mortgage of said property to the financial intuitions /Bank /third parties and shell informed/said object the same in writing along with the photocopies, related such claims, objections through the RPAD with the under mentioned address within **10 days** from the publication of this notice.
If no valid claim/objections are received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction deeming that apart from the aforesaid owner no one else has/have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the schedule property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of agricultural property bearing property bearing Sy.No.99/2 measuring 2 acres, situated at **Dandiganahalli Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**
K.V. MAHENDRA KUMAR, Advocate 1st Floor, Abhay Complex, Above Union Bank, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli -562 110. Mob: 9538276877

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client This is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client **Sri. Keshava .R. S/o. Ramachandrappa, Aged about 39 years, R/at.Mandibele Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** has intending to purchase the schedule Property from its present owner viz., **Smt. Ammayamma W/o. Late D.M. Krishnappa, and family members, R/at Ward No.20, Pattapargudi Beedi, Channarayapetne Road, Devanahalli Town, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District..**
If any third party/s Person/s has/have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, clients, charges or lien over the schedule property they are hear by requested to file the objections to this sale transaction or mortgage of said property to the financial intuitions /Bank /third parties and shell informed/said object the same in writing along with the photocopies, related such claims, objections through the RPAD with the under mentioned address within **10 days** from the publication of this notice.
If no valid claim/objections are received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction deeming that apart from the aforesaid owner no one else has/have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the schedule property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of agricultural property bearing property bearing Sy.No.122/2 measuring 2 acres 12 guntas and 0-03 guntas Kharab situated at **Dandiganahalli Village, VijayapuraHobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**
K.V. MAHENDRA KUMAR, Advocate 1st Floor, Abhay Complex, Above Union Bank, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli -562 110. Mob: 9538276877



THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).
Short description of the Immovable Property

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 868/2022)						RESERVE PRICE (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)	Clear Title
	Village	Hobli	Taluk	District	Sy No	Area				
1.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	53/2	1 Acre 34 Guntas	15,72,500/-	1,58,000/-	16,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZYzzebvtTyPZNS15A Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'53.4"N 76°52'55.1"E									
2.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	63/2A	1 Acre 34 Guntas	15,72,500/-	1,58,000/-	16,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/VQNC97cPPGFnqHiN6 Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'57.6"N 76°53'02.6"E									
3.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	63/2B	1 Acre 23 Guntas	13,38,750/-	1,34,000/-	14,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/VQNC97cPPGFnqHiN6 Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'57.6"N 76°53'02.6"E									
4.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	63/4	1 Acre 10 Guntas	10,62,500/-	1,07,000/-	11,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/VQNC97cPPGFnqHiN6 Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'57.6"N 76°53'02.6"E									
5.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	64/1	0 Acre 23 Guntas	4,88,750/-	49,000/-	5,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/DGEQtUnuyz57MR3V9 Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'59.1"N 76°53'08.6"E									
6.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	64/2A	0 Acre 29 Guntas	6,16,250/-	62,000/-	7,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/DGEQtUnuyz57MR3V9 Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'59.1"N 76°53'08.6"E									
7.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	65/1	0 Acre 21 Guntas	4,46,250/-	45,000/-	5,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/rTFocx2Dmu1EgfJk9 Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'57.0"N 76°53'08.3"E									
8.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	65/2A	0 Acre 13 Guntas	2,76,250/-	28,000/-	3,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/rTFocx2Dmu1EgfJk9 Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'57.0"N 76°53'08.3"E									
9.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	66/1	0 Acre 35 Guntas	7,43,750/-	75,000/-	8,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/LWwFNhLXsWnL8Trr6 Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'55.6"N 76°53'08.1"E									
10.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	66/2A	0 Acre 05 Guntas	1,06,250/-	11,000/-	2,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/LWwFNhLXsWnL8Trr6 Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'55.6"N 76°53'08.1"E									
11.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	134/3	1 Acre 19 Guntas	12,53,750/-	1,26,000/-	13,000/-	RTC stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/jwGuq4vwpmZRuTzE6 Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'38.7"N 76°52'31.6"E									
12.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	134/4	0 Acre 29 Guntas	6,16,250/-	62,000/-	7,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/jwGuq4vwpmZRuTzE6 Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'38.7"N 76°52'31.6"E									
13.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	146/2A	2 Acre 26 Guntas	22,52,500/-	2,26,000/-	23,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/1ScQd2gttVcxo4YXA Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'39.2"N 76°52'17.5"E									
14.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	146/2B	1 Acre 38 Guntas	16,57,500/-	1,66,000/-	17,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/1ScQd2gttVcxo4YXA Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'39.2"N 76°52'17.5"E									
15.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	148/2	1 Acre 14 Guntas	11,47,500/-	1,15,000/-	12,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/zMKKnEeDucRaDbPaA Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'43.0"N 76°52'14.4"E									
16.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	154/4B	1 Acre 19 Guntas	12,53,750/-	1,26,000/-	13,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/NzpPyGtLAsEKCFBY9 Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'34.4"N 76°52'01.9"E									
17.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	155	5 Acre 25 Guntas	47,81,250/-	4,79,000/-	48,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/Nh9fYdU9dDbtZzpa6 Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'30.2"N 76°52'03.6"E									
18.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	179/2	2 Acre 35 Guntas	24,43,750/-	2,45,000/-	25,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/z7bncXi4gCVBTecK7 Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'52.4"N 76°52'17.8"E									
19.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	180/1	0 Acre 24 Guntas	5,10,000/-	51,000/-	6,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/BY1Toxde9PgDT9qJ7 Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'54.1"N 76°52'21.4"E									
20.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	184/2	0 Acre 09 Guntas	1,91,250/-	20,000/-	2,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/rBXv5CnSKyNixWKA7 Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'45.0"N 76°52'27.2"E									
21.	Dasanuru	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	190/2	1 Acre 22 Guntas	14,72,500/-	1,48,000/-	15,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZV7AAMZhCUGnQjvZA Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'47.3"N 76°52'32.6"E									
22.	Ramashettyapura	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	67/2	2 Acre 13 Guntas	24,41,250/-	2,45,000/-	25,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/oPioH26FhvNYhxmx8 Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'25.6"N 76°52'06.3"E									
23.	Ramashettyapura	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	99/1A	0 Acre 26 Guntas	6,82,500/-	69,000/-	7,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZzZhSUXXB1STtw98 Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'57.7"N 76°52'44.6"E									
24.	Ramashettyapura	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	100/1A	0 Acre 10 Guntas	2,62,500/-	27,000/-	3,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/24Dt11u5oiRYVnzYA Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'59.5"N 76°52'48.7"E									
25.	Ramashettyapura	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	100/1B	0 Acre 28 Guntas	7,35,000/-	74,000/-	8,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/24Dt11u5oiRYVnzYA Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'59.5"N 76°52'48.7"E									
26.	Ramashettyapura	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	100/2C	0 Acre 23 Guntas	6,03,750/-	61,000/-	7,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/24Dt11u5oiRYVnzYA Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'59.5"N 76°52'48.7"E									
27.	Paduvala Agrahara	Doddakavalande	Nanjangudu	Mysore	6	5 Acre 25 Guntas	39,37,500/-	3,94,000/-	40,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/hKSvVeUs9SyQ4sZnEA Latitude and Longitude : 12°02'56.5"N 76°53'05.8"E									
DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 701/2022)										
28.	Nittahalli	Kukanooru	Kukanooru	Koppala	19/1	4 Acre 35 Guntas	1,70,62,500/-	17,07,000/-	1,71,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/QnqbB88JBtVttYmn6 Latitude and Longitude: 15°27'22.9"N 76°00'54.1"E									
29.	Nittahalli	Kukanooru	Kukanooru	Koppala	22/2	4 Acre 16 Guntas	1,54,00,000/-	15,40,000/-	1,54,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/60gM6PLhMRvrHfNt6 Latitude and Longitude: 15°27'36.7"N 76°00'47.7"E									
30.	Nittahalli	Kukanooru	Kukanooru	Koppala	21	1 Acre 26 Guntas	57,75,000/-	5,78,000/-	58,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/mEKGsUnVRR1HmiKf6 Latitude and Longitude: 15°27'26.6"N 76°00'48.8"E									
DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 597/2022)										
31.	Kodagu District, Somavarapete Town panchayat ward Sy No.181 Extent: 0-01 Gunta; Sy No.181/1 Extent: 0-01 Gunta; Sy No.181/2 Extent: 0-14 Gunta; Total extent of Area 0-16 Guntas						2,40,00,000/-	24,00,000/-	2,40,000/-	
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/DVtWcfVm6FegKuQH7 Latitude and Longitude: 12°35'54.3"N 75°51'04.7"E									
Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place			Date of Inspection & time			Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission			Date & Time of E Auction	
22nd April 2024, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLCOA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01			24th April 2024 11:00am to 5:00pm			25th April 2024 Before 5pm			26th April 2024 11:00 am to 1:00 pm	
For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Joint Secretary, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeuction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 6364403715. Sd/- Place: Bengaluru Date: 02-04-2024 The Special Officer & Competent Authority, (Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru, Karnataka										

DIPR/CP/01/ZEN/2024-2

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the "CITY SHRI SUBHASH CHAKRABORTY FOUNDATION" has registered Trust, having its office at "Director's Hostel," No.3, Victoria Road, Bengaluru - 560 047 and proposes to purchase 0 Acres 21 Guntas of land out of 2 Acres 14 Guntas of land in Survey No.61/2 of Giddenhalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru Taluk, Bangalore District, Smt. Usha Sri Narasa Gowda and W/o Sri Prem Kumar, R/a; Giddenhalli Village, Kadaburga Hobli, Bengaluru Taluk, Bangalore - 562 130 and another 0 Acres 21 Guntas of land out of 2 Acres 14 Guntas of land in Survey No.61/2 of Giddenhalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru Taluk, Bangalore - from Smt. Latha, D/o late Sri Narasa Gowda and wife of Sri Suresh, R/a House No.848, Vinayakarapur, Areshina Gutta Village, Kasaba Hobli, Neelamangala Taluk, Bangalore 562 130 from valuable sale consideration. These properties are situated in the vicinity of Smt. Usha Sri Narasa Gowda No.2 of the schedule herebelow. If any person has any objection or protest to the above sales transactions or claims any ownership rights over the above properties, may inform such objection, protest or claim or ownership rights to the undersigned by way of written statement supported by documentary evidence, **within 7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Protests, objections, etc. received after the said period, shall not be considered.

SCHEDULE

Item No.1: All the plots and parcel of 0 Acres 21 Guntas of land out of 2 Acres 14 Guntas of land in Survey No.61/2 of Giddenhalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru Taluk, Bangalore District, bounded on **East** by : Land belonging to Thimmarappa **West** by : 21 guntas of Land belonging to Smt. Usha Sri Narasa Gowda and same survey number North by : Remaining land in the same survey number retained by Savithramma, Dananjanya, Somasekhara and N.Kantharaju
South by : Road

Item No.2: All that portion and parcel of 0 Acres 21 Guntas of land out of 2 Acres 14 Guntas of land in Survey No.61/2 of Giddenhalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru Taluk bounded on -
East by : 21 guntas of land in the same sy. no. owned by Smt. Usha **West** by : Same survey number Land retained by Savithramma, Dananjanya, Somasekhara and N.Kantharaju Sy.No.62/3 North by : Remaining land in the same survey number retained by Savithramma, Dananjanya, Somasekhara and N.Kantharaju
South by : Road

Bengaluru, Date:-3-4-2024
KRNA NUTRITION Advocate,
No.427, 4th Main Road, HMT Layout, Anandrade Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 024 Mob:9845787505

RBI's rate setting committee likely to maintain status quo on policy rates

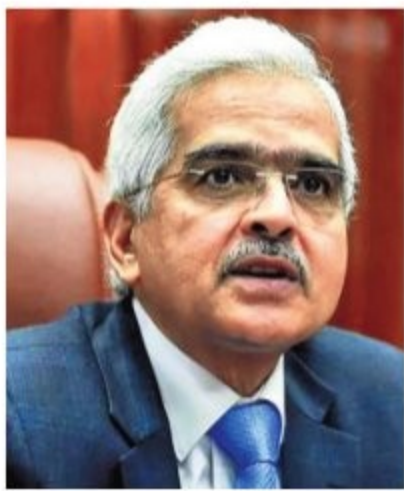
BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

ANALYSTS and Mint Road observers expect the Reserve Bank-led rate setting panel (MPC), which began its first three-day meeting of the new fiscal year on Wednesday, to maintain status quo on policy rates given the still sticky inflation and the more-than-expected economic growth in the December quarter.

RBI will announce its policy move and stance Friday. The meeting comes against the

backdrop of a stronger-than-expected growth numbers (8.4% in Q3FY24) despite pressures in some sectors. The latest PMI reading shows manufacturing sector is red hot and is at a 16-year high of 59.1% in March.

The MPC, which has increased the policy rates by 250 bps to 6.5% from the pandemic driven easing to 4%, since May 2022, has been maintaining status quo since February 2023 when it had last hiked rates. Headline inflation though has been trending down since the



past few months and got printed in at 5.1% in February and March. "I don't see the earliest rate cut before the October meeting, unless growth posits a negative surprise in the intervening quarters, amid a shallow rate cut cycle limited to 50 bps at best," Icrs Ratings chief economist Aditi Nayar told this newspaper. She also does not see the policy stance changing before the August review or until there is visibility on the monsoons turnout as well as on the sustenance of the growth

momentum coupled with the US Fed's rate decisions.

Rating agency Care Edge expects the policy rates to be kept on hold on Friday and so is the stance as it sees economic momentum to persist in the next fiscal given the public capex push and improving external situations. Given all these, the agency sees a balanced policy with focus on liquidity as the economy gets into the busy credit season, which is only ac-

centuated by the cash-guzzling general elections. Care chief economist Rajani Sinha sees a rate cut in the second half of the fiscal as headline inflation approaches the 4% threshold.

Echoing similar views, Wall Street brokerage Goldman Sachs' Santanu Sengupta expects the repo rate to be unchanged and so does the policy stance of withdrawal of accommodation, and expects the governor to sound

optimistic on growth, and continue to reiterate the commitment to the 4% headline inflation target.

His pessimism comes from his estimate of food inflation remaining elevated above 7.5% in the first half of the year on the back of high cereals and pulses inflation along with the ongoing heatwaves but core inflation to remain under 4%, which will push the headline number to be remain above 5% in the first half and average at 4.7% for the full year.

Tesla to send team to scout location for plant

Company expected to evaluate \$2-3 billion investment in India

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

A month after the central government announced a hefty cut in import duty on electric vehicles (EVs) if global manufacturers want to invest in India, billionaire Elon Musk-led Tesla is likely to send a team to the country this month to search for locations for a proposed \$2-\$3 billion electric car plant.

This is not the first time that the US-based electric carmaker has shown interest in investing in the country. However, market experts believe revised norms for imported EVs, which is what Tesla was lobbying for, make it a compelling case for them to start making four-wheelers in India.

According to reports, Tesla is keen on investing in India as EV demand is slowing in its main markets — the USA — and its other big market China has become highly competitive with BYD becoming more aggressive and Xiaomi launching its first EV last week. All these factors impacted Tesla and it reported a drop in its first-quarter deliveries.

Tesla will most likely set up its base in Indian states that have automotive hubs such as Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, according to a re-



port. Tesla has reportedly told Indian government officials that it is considering building a smaller car here which would be priced at less than \$30,000. It can sell the model here and export to Southeast Asia, the Gulf, Africa, and southern and eastern Europe.

In a bid to attract Tesla and other global automakers to start manufacturing EVs in India, the central government on March 15 made big changes in its EV policy.

The government has allowed import of completely built-up (CBU) electric cars that have a minimum cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value of \$35,000 at 15% import duty for a period of 5 years. Currently, CBU vehicles priced at over \$40,000 attract a

100% duty while those below \$40,000 are subject to 70% tax. This benefit is applicable for applicants/companies who are committing a minimum investment of ₹4,150 crore or \$500 million, to manufacture in India. The companies will also have to meet other requirements such as increasing the rate of localization to 25% in three years and 50% within 5 years.

The changes in import duty came as India is pushing hard to increase the adoption of EVs to cut import of crude oil and meet its carbon reduction target. At present, shares of electric cars in India are about 2% of total passenger vehicle sales as higher prices and lack of charging infrastructure remain a big concern among car buyers.

'Flight schedules to normalise this week'

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

VINOD KANNAN, chief executive officer (CEO) of Vistara, expects flight movements at the airline to normalise within the next 2-3 days as about 150 flight cancellations over the past three days due to a shortage of pilots have left many passengers stranded at airports.

To address the concern of pilots, Kannan along with senior management of the Tata Group airline held a meeting on Wednesday and assured the grieving pilots that they should not worry as there is enough growth potential for them in the airline as well as the merged entity. Kannan also thanked the pilots for accepting the new salary structure, the bone of contention between the Air India-led management and the



group of pilots. According to sources, the CEO also assured the pilots that the company would make changes in the rostering system so the pilots get ample amount of rest time. The changes in the rostering system are expected to be visible by May.

Kannan in the meeting also said that Vistara would reduce flight frequency to create additional buffer for pilots to avoid a similar situation in future. According to the airline man-

agement, the high level of utilisation of its working pilots and mass sick leaves reported by a group of pilots resulted in an unforeseen situation.

Since the start of this week, a significant section of Vistara pilots started reporting sick leaves, leaving the airline with no choice but to cancel flights. In recent weeks, discontent has been simmering among pilots at Vistara following the new contracts, ahead of its merger with Air India, wherein there

are concerns that the fixed pay component is getting reduced and there is more flying-linked incentive in the salary structure.

As per a senior pilot at Vistara, the new contract notes that they will be eligible for guaranteed pay for 40 hours, a sharp fall from the 70 hours in their earlier contracts with the airline. The pilot added that this would lead to a significant cut in takeaway salaries. Pilots are dissatisfied with rostering and their graduation process from narrow-body to wide-body aircraft. The new contract aims to bring parity between pilots of Vistara and Air India as part of the ongoing merger process, which is expected to be completed in 2025. Vistara is a joint venture between Tata Group and Singapore Airlines.

EXPRESS READ

Britannia forays into healthtech space

NEW DELHI: Biscuit Brand Britannia NutriChoice on Wednesday forayed into crowded healthtech space with launch of NutriPlus app. It has collaborated with technology company Aktiv Labs for new app and said the mobile app simplifies health tracking through a single everyday scan. Since there are many players in wellness tracking app space, NutriPlus wants to simplify and streamline the process. ENS

Shareholders of VIL vote in favour of raising ₹20,000 cr through equity

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE shareholders of telecom service provider Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) have voted in favour of its proposal to raise ₹20,000 crore through equity and equity-linked instruments.

With the approval of shareholders, the company expects to raise funds through equity in the coming quarter. The company held an extraordinary general meeting (EGM), and its results were announced on Wednesday. Akshaya Moondra, CEO of Vodafone Idea, addressing EGM (extraordinary general meeting) on Tuesday, said the promoters' shareholding in the company will fall to about 40% from 50% now, after the equity fundraise move. However, he also mentioned that the promoter shareholding is still at a very good level; there is no concern there. Currently, the promoters—Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group—collectively hold a 48.91% share of the company.

Vodafone Idea announced on February 27, 2024, that the company's Board of Directors has approved the equity financing

plan. It said the fund could be raised through convertible debentures, warrants, or other securities convertible into equity shares, global depository receipts, American depository receipts, or foreign currency convertible bonds.

The company held the EGM on April 2 to approve the same through an audio-visual medium where shareholders could participate to pass the company's resolutions. The company is planning to raise ₹45,000 crore through a combination of equity and debt.

Recently, the company also sold equity shares to its vendor, American Tower Company (ATC), through the conversion of optionally convertible debentures (OCDs) worth ₹1,440 crore. ATC now holds a 2.87% stake in Vodafone Idea.

Meanwhile, the telco's net loss for the October-December quarter narrowed to ₹6,986 crore from ₹8,738 crore in the previous quarter. Revenue from operations rose 0.5% year-on-year, owing to improvements in subscriber mix, 4G subscriber additions, and an increase in entry-level tariffs.

RENEWABLES

Adani Green's capacity crosses 10K MW mark

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

ADANI GREEN ENERGY on Wednesday said its operating capacity has crossed the 10,000 MW milestone, becoming the country's largest renewable energy company.

On a consolidated basis, Tata Power is still the largest private sector power company with over 14,500 MW, and NTPC is the largest public sector company with close to 76,000 MW capacities. At over 10,000 MW of operational capacity, the Adani Green contributes about 11% of the country's installed utility-scale solar and wind capacity, and also contributing to over 15% of the utility-scale solar installations, it said in a statement.

"We've surpassed the 10,000 MW mark of operational portfolio which has now crossed 10,934 MW. The operational portfolio consists of 7,393 MW of solar, 1,401 MW of wind and 2,140 MW of wind-solar hybrid capacity. This milestone makes our resolve towards the goal of 45,000 GW renewable energy by 2030, the Gautam Adani group firm said in a statement. The 10,934 MW operational portfolio can power over 5.8 million homes and avoid about 21 million tonne of CO2 emissions annually it said.

Motorola to double investment to grab India mkt

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

MOBILE manufacturer Motorola, owned by Lenovo, said on Wednesday it is doubling its investment in India to increase its market share as well as to export its devices to other countries.

Ruben Castano, head of customer experience at Motorola, said in an interaction that the company did well in the country last year, and India has become one of its strongest growing markets globally.

"We're increasing local manufacturing capacity in India. The local manufacturing is also helping us to serve other markets outside of India. However, we can't share the investment number. We're also investing quite heavily in terms of mar-



keting and expanding the channels both online and offline," said Castano.

When asked about the exports to other countries, Motorola said it primarily exports to the US market from India. It exported more than a million smartphones from India in

2023, and nearly 20-25% to the US. "All the smartphones of Motorola sold in India are made in India," said Castano.

Currently, Dixon is the contract manufacturer for Motorola in India. However, when it comes to exports, Apple and Samsung dominate Indian smartphone market. As per Counterpoint Research, India's mobile market is grabbed by Xiaomi, Vivo, Samsung, Realme, and Oppo in CY23. However, brands like Apple, Google, or Motorola fall short in others categories. As per the report, other brands that grew in 2023 were Google (11%), Lava (36%), and Motorola (13%).

On being asked about the usage of AI technology, Castano called it fantastic technology. He said it is not a trend but a

future for the mobile industry and for many other industries. "Our view on AI as it is with all our devices is to take AI and not treat it as technology for technology's sake, but make it something useful for the consumer," said Castano.

Motorola plans to collaborate with other firms to integrate its devices with AI. Castano said the company thought about it. "We have, of course, thought about it. We, as a company, have embraced partnerships with open arms, whether it's audio with Bose or fashion and lifestyle with Pantalone or so. We announced our partnership with Corning at the MWC (Mobile World Congress), and all our devices will come with Corning Gorilla Glass. Yeah, AI is no different," said Castano.

22% unicorns started by solopreneurs, investors prefer co-founder led firms

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

THOUGH the founding team size in a start-up depends on various factors, there always exists a dilemma on the number of founders.

Market intelligence platform PrivateCircle Research in its latest analysis points out that in the last 10 years, about 22% of Indian unicorns were started by solopreneurs when compared to two or more co-founders leading the start.

It reveals that investors prefer co-founder led companies as it is indicated by higher funding raised by co-founder unicorns. Further, 40% of these solopreneurs have started fintech unicorns including CRED, Slice, GoDigit Insurance, Acko and others. Interestingly, Bengaluru was the most preferred headquarters location for solopreneurs of the last decade.



Murali Loganathan, Director of Research at PrivateCircle said, "The founding team size dilemma is one of the oldest dilemmas faced by startup founders. Ultimately, the choice depends on the individual's temperament, goals, and the specific dynamics of the venture they are embarking upon. Variation in central tendencies of both the groups indicates that investors prefer co-founder led companies. It can also be a function of co-founders being able to tap a larger network of

contacts."

Data also suggests a higher win rate for start-ups with two or more founders. PrivateCircle found that Indian unicorns, on average, have two founders. The average revenue generated by co-founder unicorns is about ₹2,909 crore, which is 32% more than the average revenue of solo founder unicorns that is about ₹2,196 crore.

However, some solopreneur-led unicorns have managed to raise large funding rounds especially from Bengaluru.

GAINS-2023 Funding Awards Ceremony' held at GRSE Bhavan

GAINS 2023 - Winners Awarded Funding Orders Kolkata 'GAINS-2023 Funding Awards Ceremony' was held at GRSE Bhavan on Tuesday, 26 March 24. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd has instituted the GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS) to encourage innovative solutions for the shipbuilding industry and the Funding Awards Ceremony was held to formally award funding to M/s Smart Machines and Structures, registered as a Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) Unit, and M/s Bodkin Technologies, a Start-Up, for their innovative solutions that would have wide application in shipyards. Cmde PR Hari, IN(Retd.), Chairman & MD, GRSE, presented the award to Srinivas Aluri, founder, M/s Smart Machines and Structures & Jubin George Kurien, CEO & founder, M/s Bodkin Technologies Pvt Ltd.

Business & Beyond



State-run NALCO launches new product AL-59 in the form of Aluminium Alloy Ingot

Angul/Bhubaneswar: NALCO has launched a new product AL-59 in the form of Aluminium Alloy Ingot. AL59 has come into foray mainly in producing Conductors for Electrical Transmission and Distribution, especially after the launch of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of Govt. Of India. This alloy will provide special characteristics to the conductors creating a niche market for the company. AL59 Alloy Conductors are used in power transmission and distribution lines for a wide voltage range.

Vedanta signs MoU with Odisha Skill Development Authority to upskill youth

Lanjigarh, Kalahandi District, Odisha: Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh, the country's premier producer of metallurgical grade alumina and a unit of Vedanta Aluminium, has signed a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with OSDA (Odisha Skill Development Authority), Government of Odisha, with the aim to upskill more than 1,300 youths in a span of three years. Vedanta's skill training initiative has supported rural, unemployed youths from Kalahandi district, who have dropped out of school because of socio-economic constraints, to secure sustainable livelihoods. The company aims to broaden the scope of this initiative through various partnerships with renowned institutions such as NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) and many more.

By 2028, we will be fighting for a medal in three relays: AFI chief

Sumariwalla says the country's athletes will do better than Tokyo this Olympics in Paris; reveals project for 4x400 women will help produce champions

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

THE Olympics are here. Athletics produced the only gold at the Tokyo Olympics. All eyes will be on Neeraj Chopra again. Yet, according to the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adile Sumariwalla, this time the team is expected to do better. During a freewheeling interview with this daily, the AFI chief who will be completing his third and final four-year term this year, talks about the preparation, athletes who are likely to do well, future project on women's 4x400 relay, his legacy and more. Excerpts:

On when did the planning start for Paris

It's a continuous process. If you look at the programme, last Olympics these athletes were young and new, like M Sreesankar and others... this Olympics, they will be matured. Jeswin Aldrin and others will be far more experienced than they were before. If they do their best of 8.40m they are definitely in run for a medal. Look at javelin throw. We have five javelin throwers capable of throwing 85m plus. It is not like we are training from one Olympic cycle to the other. It's a long term vision and we keep adding to it.

On the development in men's javelin

Today it will be difficult to select. It is not just these three (Kishore

Jena and DP Manu), there are two more. There is Rohit (Yadav), there is Shivpal (Singh) who are also in the run. So there are five javelin throwers, only three of them will be able to go to Paris. If you see the last Worlds, the top six had three Indians. I think it's a tremendous effort. Again I am coming back to what I said (about our training programme), it has to be a continuous process. You cannot produce this from one Olympic cycle from Tokyo to here.

On if we yet to produce the goods as a collective at the Worlds or the Olympics

Yes it's correct. If you see the last Worlds, if they had jumped their best — 8.40m plus — they would have got a medal. The issue is it requires a little more experience by which you know these athletes will be able to perform the same at the top level.

So we are sending them for exposure and training. Sree and the others are going to participate in some Diamond League meets before the Olympics. We are sending all of them to ensure that they are continuously jumping with the best jumpers in the world. So that they are used to it and this would seem like a normal jumping session. Now we are ensuring that the athletes get good competitions and that they are used to all sorts of conditions... hot, cold so that nobody says bahot garma hai (it's so hot). There are no excuses. With all the experience



We said the relays and jumps. We have said that within two Olympic cycles, we will be back in women's discuss throw. There are the three relays, there are walks, one or two middle and long distance events. Steeplechase is a good event but we have a long way to go. — Adile Sumariwalla, AFI chief, on medals in other disciplines at big events

that we are giving them, nobody can have any excuse. We are giving you enough competitions to participate in throughout the year, throughout the season. Go and make the best of it and then reproduce your best in the big championships.

On expanding on giving athletes the best experience, exposure and training facilities under his regime

It's very simple. Sport is science. Sport is biomechanics and biochemistry. What we did is we first identified the events, once we identified the events, then what did we do? We brought in foreign coaches and once we

brought in the foreign coaches... you look at the improvement in middle and long distance running of late. We brought in Scott Simmons about two years ago. Now see the difference in the middle and long distance running. They're breaking national records after national records. There was one or two athletes those days. But look at the athletes, where they are, I mean, they're running with the best. Look at the walkers, we brought in a foreign coach. Seven have qualified for Olympics. Nobody actually gives walking too much importance. It is unheard of that seven walkers from India have qualified. Come to 4x400m relay.

Again foreign coaches. Three foreign coaches, one after another, look at the three, three years roughly, each. Today running two races below three minutes in a space of 24 hours without changing the team. We hardly have any runners running below 45.5 and yet we are running below three minutes. Again we have a foreign coach. Now we are doing a programme for the 400m women. And I can tell you that in 2028, we will be fighting for a medal in all the three relays — men, women and mixed.

On the special project for the women's 400m

There will be three separate centres in which 16 athletes will be housed in each of those centres under three foreign coaches. This will be only for women. For men, we are doing whatever we are doing and the existing programme will continue.

The three centres...

I think it should be Trivandrum, Bangalore and maybe Bhopal or Pune. We are finalising the plan so I am not sure about the centres right now. In women's, we have no 51-52 second runners. Yet in the national relay in Chandigarh this year we had 328s which is the third fastest timing ever by a relay team in India. And we have all 52.5-53 second runners. When these athletes, who are young, are trained you see what will happen.

On age based selection on

women athletes, if any. No. We will identify them mostly from our junior — under 18, under 20 category and the senior women. We will also consider some under-16 athletes, because we don't want to over-train the U-16 athletes.

On the legacy you will likely leave behind and your anti doping programme...

I think I have done a tremendous work there (anti-doping). Before I became president, we used to hardly test 100 samples but now we are testing 1000s. Now we have taken anti-doping to state level. We have taken it to institution level like All India Police, Services and Railways. We have anti-doping to junior level.

In terms of legacy, I think I have done some great work. Identifying athletes and disciplines... bringing in foreign coaches. If you see in my first term of the Olympics (London), about 12 (13) people qualified. By the second term (Rio Games), roughly 18-20 athletes qualified and the third time, roughly 30 (26), odd have qualified and this time close to 40 are expected to qualify. Basically, you have to build bench strength. It's like if you have five throwers, five jumpers, then you will get one world champion.

So you're building bench strength you're bringing in transparency, accountability, making everybody accountable, including the coaches, the foreign coaches, the Indian coaches, the monitoring systems that

have been put in place. The processes have been put in place. That's the biggest legacy. As a federation, I mean, you are generating revenue. I put the finances in very good shape. We have also finally got our own office building in New Delhi.

On the athletes...

Today the athletes have full faith that no wrong will be done to them. There is somewhere where they can go to if they have a problem or an issue. There is somebody who's going to listen to them. They get whatever facility they want from us. We have a very open process. Our AGM is open even to media. That's the level of transparency.

On AFI as a federation

There are no issues because if everybody is working for the same cause and working honestly, then there will be no problem. The structure we have created at the district level is again one of the biggest legacies and is one of the largest congregations of junior athletes in the world. The National Inter-District Junior Athletics Meet (NIDJAM) that we have created will remain at the top.

On the athletes & disciplines that have lifted the profile

Javelin with Neeraj at top of it. The 4x400 relays. Both the relays, men and women, the long jumpers headed by Sree. The middle and long distance runners headed by Avinash Sable. Full story: newindianexpress.com

Indians will need big moves in the stacked field

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE visas have come. The players have arrived. The chess sets have landed. The preparations are complete, well almost. In a few hours, the first moves will be made in Toronto to identify the next two Challengers to take on the respective world champions in two title matches later this year. In terms of pressure, the two World Championships (Open and Women) stand alone. But in the world of elite chess, the Candidates is a sort of Worlds before the actual Worlds. For it is long, brutal and involves duelling against seven of the world's best twice in three weeks for a shot at the world title.

For decades, Russia dominated the Candidates. They have generally had multiple participants in the Open section (the Women's Candidates is a recent addition to the cycle). That sort of hegemony broke in 2022 when there was only one in Ian Nepomniachtchi. The status quo remains unchanged two years later with Nepomniachtchi taking his place in the field as the finalist from 2022.

Instead, there's an emerging superpower. India.

In 2024, 31.5% of the field are from the country (three in the Open and two in the Women). In fact, the tournament sees two all-India clashes on the opening day (it's a form of tradition in the Candidates). In the Open section, D Gukesh (the second-youngest to feature in the his-

tory of the tournament after the legendary Bobby Fischer) faces off against Vidit Gujrathi on Thursday. In the Women's event, R Vaishali faces Koneru Humpy. There's a reason why many believe that the future of chess is India. The young talent at the elite level is overflowing with so many players threatening to rise in the ratings. At the last Olympiad in Mahablipuram, Indians won a raft of medals; they set all records in the process.

While age can be a wonderful thing, in long tournaments like this, experience generally counts for a lot. It's why the likes of Magnus Carlsen, one of the biggest fans of this generation of Indian players, think it will be a 'shock' if an Indian wins the event in the Open section. "(Hikaru) Nakamura and (Fabiano) Caruana are the best and most consistent players there," he had told a podcast recently. "If Alireza (Firouzja) wins, it would be surprising, but not shocking. If any of the other four wins, that would be a shock." While Caruana has featured in four Candidates before, Nakamura is also no stranger to this stage. But the same is not true of the four of the five Indians (Humpy is the only Indian to have previously featured in the Candidates).

Thursday's pairings: Open: Fabiano Caruana vs Hikaru Nakamura, Nijat Abasov vs Ian Nepomniachtchi, Alireza Firouzja vs R Praggnanandhaa, D Gukesh vs Vidit Gujrathi. **Women:** Aleksandra Goryachkina vs Kateryna Lagno, Anna Muzychuk vs Nurgul Salimova, Lei Tingjievs Tan Zhongyi, R Vaishali vs Koneru Humpy.

Can Punjab Kings get back to winning ways?

Punjab Kings have lost two games after their first win against Delhi. As they take on Gujarat Titans, a look...

EYES ON GILL

Shubman Gill, as a captain, has two wins in three matches, but the Titans opener hasn't made an impact with the bat yet. After a breakthrough season last year, Gill went on to have a stellar international season. For him to make it to the T20I side for the T20 World Cup, he will have to replicate what he did last year.

RASHID VS LIVINGSTONE

While Punjab have been a high risk T20 set up, their middle-order will have to fire consistently, especially Liam Livingstone. How he handles Rashid Khan will define the way the contest goes on Thursday.

CAN Jitesh STEP UP?

Having been made the vice-captain of the Punjab team, Jitesh Sharma has some extra responsibility. In three innings so far, he has made 9, 27 & 6. For him to make a case for the T20 World Cup, he will have to do a lot more than that.

TODAY'S GAME: Gujarat Titans vs Punjab Kings, Ahmedabad

Live on Star Sports and JioCinema, 7.30PM

Knights of Kolkata reign supreme against Delhi Capitals in Vizag

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

AT one point, it looked like a highlights package rather than live action. That is how Sunil Narine (85 from 39 balls) and Angkrish Raghuvanshi (54 off 27) were batting at the ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium during the clash between Kolkata Knight Riders and Delhi Capitals on Wednesday. Once they got out, Rinku Singh (26 from 8 balls) and Andre Russell (41 off 19) took charge as Kolkata Knight Riders posted 272/7 in 20 overs. In reply, Delhi were all out for 166, falling short by 106 runs. Rishabh Pant (55) and Tristan Stubbs (54) scored fifties, but they were not enough.

Opting to bat first, KKR got off to a flying start. Phil Salt hit consecutive boundaries off Ishant Sharma while Narine took on Khaleel Ahmed. In the fourth over, Narine hit three sixes and two fours off Ishant



Sunil Narine hit a 39-ball 85 as KKR beat Delhi by 106 runs | 6 SATYANARAYANA

as KKR raced to 58/0. Brought in to break the partnership, Anrich Nortje removed Salt (18). However, Raghuvanshi kept the momentum going as KKR finished the powerplay with 88/1.

Even as the field spread, Delhi had one quite over where Narine was dropped when he was on 52. When it looked like he was set for a century, Mitchell Marsh broke

the partnership sending Narine back. In the next over, Raghuvanshi got out. At that point, KKR were 176/3 in 13.2 overs. While Shreyas Iyer got out shortly, Rinku and Russell threatened to take KKR past the record 277. However, Ishant bowled a terrific last over to keep KKR to 272/7. **Brief scores:** KKR 272/7 in 20 ovs (Narine 85, Raghuvanshi 54, Russell 41; Nortje 3/59) bt DC 166 in 17.2 ovs (Pant 55, Stubbs 54; Arora 3/27).

10-man Kerala Blasters go down to East Bengal

AGENCIES @Kochi

KERALA BLASTERS FC suffered a 4-2 loss to East Bengal FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi on Wednesday as the Yellow Army fell to a crushing defeat a day after they qualified for the Indian Super League 2023-24 playoffs.

A brace each by Saul Crespo and Naorem Mahesh Singh ensured that the Red & Gold Bri-



Action from the match between Kerala Blasters & East Bengal | TP SOORAJ

gade kept their playoff hopes alive after garnering only their second win in their last five matches. East Bengal FC have now moved to 21 points from 20 matches, and their upcoming fixtures against Bengaluru FC and Punjab FC will be critical to see if they manage to break into the top-six.

The Carles Cuadrat-coached side began gaining a hold over the proceedings particularly in

the second half, when they struck the back of the net thrice to beat the home side. Blasters midfielder Jeakson Singh Thounaojam was given the marching orders by the referee in the 45th minute for a second yellow. From then on, the visitors made their one-man advantage count to punish the home side.

Blasters will next play North East United FC on April 6.

Training in Turkey now, boxer Preeti set for U-22 Asian C'ships meet

ANMOL GURUNG @Chennai

IT'S a critical period for Paris-bound athletes from the country. The standard of training in the next few months or so could prove to be the difference between a rare medal at the Olympics or an average outing.

That's the case with four pugilists—Nikhat Zareen, Parveen Hooda, Preeti Sai Panwar and Lovlina Borgohain—who have been working behind the scenes ever since they secured quotas last year. In a bid to raise their game, the four are now in Turkey after getting funded through the Target Olympic Podium

Scheme (TOPS). The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) officially announced the development on Wednesday.

It's a welcome move as the four pugilists, who reportedly left on Tuesday along with two coaches and a physio, are likely to get a chance to spar with foreign athletes. Though they had been training in Patiala with other boxers, the elites will attest that it's always a welcome boost to train in a different environment. For boxers who bank on marginal improvements on a day-to-day basis, they also get to assess their growth.



Preeti Sai Panwar

Prior to this tour, which is expected to be 10 days or so, the four Indians had been part of the training camp at Budva,

Montenegro from February 14 to 28 earlier this year. Just before that, Nikhat, Preeti and Lovlina had taken part in the 75th Strandja Cup in Bulgaria, which was held from February 1 to 12th.

This continuous process of activity is designed to keep them rust-free and nourish them in the long run. In fact, Preeti, after the completion of the training in Turkey, is expected to take part in the U-22 Asian Championships, scheduled to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan from April 27 to May 7. Preeti's uncle and basic coach, Vinod Kumar, revealed the same.

"Preeti is doing alright and she has already departed for Turkey. She's highly motivated and looking to train well. Her attitude is on point," he said.

Preeti is the youngest of the lot and is someone who has caught the attention of many with her prowess inside the ring. "We had been focussing on her speed, improve her foot movement," Vinod noted.

With a fair amount of uncertainty surrounding the rest of the boxing unit, Nikhat & Co will be looking to bring some assuredness by following their plans to the T and lifting India's hopes ahead of the Games.

Sports ministry's backing

The sports ministry also approved a training camp in Russia for wrestlers — Sujeet (65kg), Deepak Punia (86kg) and Naveen (74kg) — who are bound for the Asian Olympic Games Qualifier in April. Some other elite athletes including the likes of Manika Batra (table tennis), Bhowneesh Mendiratta (shooter) were also funded to travel and train/compete abroad in their respective sports. Bhowneesh is set to head to Italy to train with personal coach Daniele Di Spigno for the upcoming ISSF World Cup in Baku.

Men's tennis to trial new doubles format

PARIS: New rules designed to attract more interest in doubles tournaments for fans, players and organisers will be trialled starting at this month's Madrid Masters, the ATP announced on Wednesday. Doubles events have become a financial headache for organisers because they no longer feature the best singles players, prompting the ATP to try and convince them to return.

CHASING
DESI
NEW YEARS!

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

WHILE tomorrow marks the new year according to the lunisolar calendar and some communities across India will be ushering in a new auspicious annum to come, most Asian cultures with a connection to India's traditional solar calendars will be celebrating the sacred day on April 13, 14 or 15. Here's a quick guide to all the celebrations you can be a part of if you book your tickets quickly and finalise those itineraries soon...

Tamil Puthandu

Starting down south, in Tamil Nadu, the festival is called Puthandu and is also known officially as Tamil New Year. The festival is set to April 14 and does not change as per the vagaries of the solar calendar. The day is observed as a time for family. Households are cleaned and visits to local temples are common. People wear new clothes and children seek the blessings of family elders, followed by the family sitting down for a vegetarian feast. The day is also marked by big budget film releases from the Tamil movie industry (Kollywood), shopping festivals and picnicking across the state's many tourist destinations. Special *thaalis* called *Virunthu Saapadu* are also served in most popular restaurants across the state. Head to Chennai for the best experience of the festivities and stay at ITC Grand Chola.

Across India, the new year begins soon and we put together a list of regional festivals and celebrations that you would love to be a part of...

Vishu

Moving to the west, finally, we have Vishu, which is a Hindu festival celebrating the Malayali New Year. Vishu falls on the first day of the month of Medam in the Malayalam Calendar (April 14 or April 15) and is the traditional new year marked by family time, preparing colourful auspicious items and viewing these as the first thing on the Vishu day (vishukkani). In particular, Malayalis seek to view the golden blossoms of the Indian laburnum (*kani konna*), money or silver items, silk, mirrors, rice,

coconuts, cucumbers, fruits and other harvest products. Like Onam, the festival is marked by feasting on *sadyas* and elaborate flower decorations, but what sets the festival apart is the gifting practice of *kaineettam* — where elders gift small amounts of money to younger relatives. Bisu Parba, the new year in nearby Tulu Nadu (in Karnataka) is also observed on the same day. Kochi offers some of the best experiences during Vishu and a good place to stay at is Grand Hyatt Kochi Bolgatty.

Pohela Boishakh

Moving east, one of the most important festivals of Bengalis across the globe, this new year is observed in West Bengal, Bangladesh and Tripura as an official holiday and is equally popular with Hindus and Muslims. While the festival is observed on either April 14 or April 15, depending on what Bengali community you are celebrating in — the festivities are almost the same. From great feasts and special clothes to special prayers and fairs — the community across the globe bring in this special day with pomp and fervour. Similar festivals in the vicinity are the Assamese Rongali Bihu or Bohag Bihu and Pana Sankranti, also known as Maha Bishuba Sankranti, the Odia new year. Bring in this new year in Kolkata and head to ITC Royal Bengal for a stay like none other!

Cheiraoba

Going further east, this is a season of festivals for the Meiteis in Manipur as two new years are celebrated a week apart. While Sajibu Nongba Panba (Meitei Cheiraoba) is usually observed a week before this festival, the difference in dates is owed to two different faith traditions. Meitei Vaishnavites follow the solar calendar and observe Cheiraoba on April 14 or April 15 every year. The festival is marked by a unique practice of climbing a nearby hill with family and friends and feasting with the community. Head to Imphal to witness the festival first hand and stay at Classic Grande for access to all the regional festivities.

Baisakhi

Moving to the north, this new year is also called Vaisakhi and marks the first day of the month of Vaisakh and is traditionally celebrated annually on April 13 and sometimes on April 14. This year, the festival will be celebrated on 13 April and travelling to Punjab, Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir), Haridwar in Uttarakhand, parts of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh will allow you to get a glimpse of this special festival and the way it is celebrated. Also celebrated as Baan Ganga Tirtha in Yamunanagar and Kurukshetra (Haryana) and as Sattua, Vaisakhi Sankranti or Satwahi in parts of Uttar Pradesh. The best place to bring in Baisakhi is Amritsar, with festivities aplenty. Stay at Taj Swarna for a unique experience.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.: FOIS_TISCO
SAIL_CSDR Dated: 01-04-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of FOIS network connectivity for TISCO & SAIL Siding at Channasandra station over Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 10,01,845.79

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 13:00 Hrs. on 24-04-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Bengaluru
PUB/2/AD/PB/SW/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR
SWRBY

DOCUMENT LOST

I, Komala N.B, D/o Late Basavalingaiah, lost document for site #5-492, of Bharat Electronics Employees Co-operative House Building Society Ltd, Herohalli village, Bangalore-560091, Ward #72-W0545-12 Bengaluru Documents lost: Original gift deed, Mulapatta Original Sale deed, If found, please handover to Vijayanagar police station.

All the news. In just a click.
Log to www.newindianexpress.com

AXIS BANK

CORRIGENDUM
In Reference to the Notice Published on Date: 03.04.2024 in this News Paper. In This Notification Pertaining to Borrower: S/No.3. Mr. Sri Ram S Sri Swaminathan Account No. PHR051403897652, HTR051403897649, along with Account No. LPR051404021402 which was left out. So add Account No. LPR051404021402 and read it again. Otherwise there will be no changes. All other contents remains unchanged.
Date: 03.04.2024
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Axis Bank

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Bengaluru (05173), Building No. 11/90, 3rd floor, Opp. Trustwell Hospital, J. C. Road, Bengaluru - 560 002 Tel: 25943863 E-mail: sbl.05173@sbi.co.in

AUCTION CANCELLATION

Reference to the E-auction sale notice published in THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS ON 23.01.2024 pertaining to property of Vijay Kumar Masoan and subsequently E-Auction held on 26.02.2024 stands cancelled due to administrative reasons.
03.04.2024
Bangalore
Sd/-
Authorised Officer

IN THE COURT OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1,

B.S.N.L. Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajahmundry Road, Bengaluru-560001

O.A. No. 1196/2022

BETWEEN: AXIS BANK LTD., ..Applicant

AND RAL INDUSTRIES & OTHERS ..Defendant

To, 1.RAL INDUSTRIES, Represented By Its Partner Vijay Kumar, No.113/9, 15th Cross, Karimab Layout, Near Doddamma Estate, Srigandhadakal, Heghanahalli, Bangalore-560091

2.Sri. Girish R, S/o Sri. Rajanna, No.22, Maruthi Nilaya, 6th Cross, Karekallu, Kamakshipalya, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560 079

3.Asha, D/o Sri. Hanumantha, No.22, 10th Main, Chennigarpa Layout, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore-560 079

Also At: Asha, D/o Sri. Hanumantha, No.17, 2nd Main Road, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore-560 079

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas the Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions, Act 1993, against the above defendants for the recovery of sum of Rs.20,53,229/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Nine Rupees only) amount together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned defendants are required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of their defence to show cause on 07.05.2024 at 10.30 AM as why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice, that in case default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this day: 27.03.2024

BY THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL

REGISTRAR-1

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1

BANGALORE.

Canara Bank

ARM Branch - II, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No. 86, MG Road, Bangalore - 560001
Ph No. 25310099, 080-25310181, E-mail - cb6298@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the ARM Branch II, Bangalore of Canara Bank, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ARM Branch II, Bangalore will be sold "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below.

Sl. No	Name of Borrowers and Guarantors	Total Liabilities	Details and full description of the property	Auction Date & Time	Reserve Price & Earnest Money Deposit [EMD] Date & Time	1) Incremental Value at Bid 2) A/c No. & IFSC
1	1. M/s Hira Textiles Prop. Nandish No 6, Kilari Road, 11th Cross, Anjaneya Temple Street, Bengaluru-560053 2. Sri Nandish Sri Srikantha No 67, 2nd Cross, Near Mahadeshwara Temple, New Guddadahalli, Bengaluru - 560026 Also At: No 13th, 2nd Cross, Park Road, Thulasi Thotta Bengaluru - 560053 3. Smt Mangala alias Sarvamangala W/o Srikantha, No 13/2 2nd Cross, Park Road, Thulasi Thotta, Bengaluru - 560053	Rs. 2,03,22,738/- (Rupees Two crore three lakhs twenty two thousand seven hundred and thirty eight only) of M/s Hira Textiles including costs and interest as on 02.04.2024 together with future interest, expenses and costs etc	Residential Site bearing No 99, 4th Main REMCO (BHEL) Layout, Kenchenahalli, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098 standing in the name of S. Mangala measuring from East to West 40ft and from North to South 60ft and bounded on the East by Site bearing No 98, West by Site bearing No 100, North by Road and South by Site bearing No 113 and 112	24.04.2024 Time 10.30 AM to 11.00 AM	Reserve Price: Rs. 1,86,00,000/- EMD: Rs. 16,80,000/- before 22/04/2024 up to 3.00 pm.	1) Multiples of Rs.50,000/- 2) A/c No. 209272434 IFSC: CNRB0006298 Encumbrance(s): Not Known to the Bank
2	1. Sri T N Ravindra 25, I B Layout, 60 ft Road, Near Gnanabodini School, Nagadevanahalli Bengaluru - 560059 2. Smt. Mahalakshmi W/O Ravindra 25, I B Layout, 60ft Road, Near Gnanabodini School, Nagadevanahalli Bengaluru - 560059	Rs. 9,91,76,983.41/- (Rupees Nine Crores ninety one lakhs seventy six thousand nine hundred and eighty three and Forty one Paise only) of Sri T N Ravindra and Smt. Mahalakshmi including costs and interest as on 02.04.2024 together with future interest, expenses and costs etc	All that piece and parcel of Property in Western portion North side Property No 2/2 BBMP Khatha No 588/435/22, Nagadevanahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli Bengaluru South Taluk Bangalore 560056 measuring 3232.75 Sq ft bounded on the North by Road and Others Property, South by Western portion of property No 2/2 Middle portion, East by eastern portion of Property No 2/2 and West by Property of Moogappa/Private layout	25.04.2024 Time 10.30 AM to 11.00 AM	Reserve Price: Rs. 98,20,000/- EMD: Rs. 9,82,000/- before 23/04/2024 up to 3.00 pm.	1) Multiples of Rs.50,000/- 2) A/c No. 209272434 IFSC: CNRB0006298 Encumbrance(s): Not Known to the Bank

Other terms and conditions

- Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://www.indianbankseaction.com>. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
- The property can be inspected with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer.
- The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process.
- EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of DD favouring Authorised Officer, Canara Bank, ARM Branch II, Bangalore OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer) to the credit account number 209272434, Canara Bank, ARM Branch II, RTGS/NEFT IFSC CODE CNRB0006298 on or before EMD Date & Time.
- Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and e-mail address. For details with regard to digital signature please contact the service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore - e-mail: eauction@ccsl.co.in in Contact Numbers:- 9480691777 & 9832952602.
- After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before EMD Date & Time, to Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore by hand.
 - Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT, acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No.
 - Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount.
 - Bid form to be submitted.
- The intending bidders should register their names at service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore - e-mail: eauction@ccsl.co.in in Contact Numbers:- 9480691777 & 9832952602.
- EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
- Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of Rs.50,000/- The bidder who submits the highest bid (above the Reserve price) on closure of "Online" auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.
- The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again.
- For sale proceeds of Rs.50.00 lacs (Rupees Fifty Lakhs only) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at the applicable rate on the Sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the Bank.
- All charges for conveyance, stamp duty/GST, registration charges, tax arrears, other charges, dues etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.
- Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating in the e-auction, they can approach concerned Circle office or Canara Bank ARM branch II who, as a facilitating centre, shall make necessary arrangements.
- Bidder has to make due diligence and physical verification of property with regard to title, extent, area dues, etc. No claim subsequent to submission of bid shall be entertained by the bank.
- For further details contact Ranjan Kumar, Chief Manager, Canara Bank, ARM Branch-2 (080-25310181) e-mail id or the service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore - e-mail: eauction@ccsl.co.in in Contact Numbers:- 9480691777 & 9832952602

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION / CAUTION

Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back-up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully. The property will not be sold below the Reserve Price.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 02.04.2024

Sd/-, Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

STATE BANK OF INDIA

RACPC MALLESHWARAM (41161)
No. 97, Railway Parallel Road, Kumarapark West, Bangalore -560020
Ph: 080 25943732, 25943720, E-mail: racpc.bz1@sbi.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SUB SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED ACT)

At your request, State Bank of India. has extended credit facility to you, Smt. Neelima D/o Sri Lallan Thakur through its Chandra Layout Branch, Bengaluru, various credit facility by way of financial assistance against various assets creating security interest in favour of the bank. The relevant particulars of the said credit facilities and the security agreement / documents executed by the borrower are furnished in the demand notice dated 02.03.2024. The said financial assistance is also secured by way of deposit of title deeds creating security interest in favour of the Bank. The relevant particular of the secured asset is specifically furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/ credit facility has become irregular, the debt has been classified as Non Performing Asset on 28.02.2024 in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrower in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the demand notice Dated 02.03.2024 sent by register AD calling upon you, was un-served/not acknowledged by you, hence this notice is now published. The accounts have been assigned from Chandra Layout Branch, Bengaluru to RACPC, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru, for maintenance and hence the undersigned is competent to issue the notice.

Name and address of the Borrower : Smt. Neelima D/o Sri Lallan Thakur, No. 320, 2nd Cross, 3rd Main, BEML Layout, 5th Stage, 1st Phase, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru - 560098. Also at: Smt. Neelima, D/o Sri Lallan Thakur C/o M/s Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (B.H.E.L.), P.B No. 2606, Electronics Division 4th Floor, CE-HMI Department, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560026. Also at: Smt. Neelima, D/o Sri Lallan Thakur, Flat No. D-001, Ground Floor, D-Block, 'CENTURY INDUS', Ward No. 22, Pattangere Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru - 560098

Outstanding Loan Amount: Rs. 14,43,903-00 (Rupees Fourteen lakh forty three thousand nine hundred three only) as on 02.03.2024 and interest from 03.03.2024, with future interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses, costs, charges, etc. thereon.

Schedule of Property : SCHEDULE - A: All that Part and parcel of residentially converted lands bearing Survey No. 62 in Pattangere Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, bearing BBMP Khata No. 3664, Ward No. 22, issued by the BBMP Rajarajeshwari Nagar sub-division, measuring to an extent of 6 Acres (24,281.14 Square Metres) Less the extent of 6,778.29 Square Metres = 17,502.849 Square Metres), Situated at Pattangere Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk. Bounded: East by: Road leading to Mysore Road, on one side and J.P.Nagar on the other side and facing Bangalore Children's Hospital (P.W.D. Road), West by: LIC Layout, North by Private Property, South by: Private Property

SCHEDULE - B: (Description of the undivided share hereby conveyed): An undivided 478 square feet of land out of the Schedule A hereto to enable the Purchaser to construct and own the 'Schedule C' Apartment.

SCHEDULE - C: (Description of the Apartment hereby conveyed): Apartment bearing No. D-001/2 on the Ground Floor, of 3 BHK in D Block in the residential apartment building/complex known as "CENTURY INDUS" constructed with RCC framed structure with concrete block works and aluminum powered coated windows, doors with vitrified flooring on the 'Schedule A' Property, having a Super Built-Up Area of 1,474 square feet with one Covered car parking space. Property standing in the name of Smt. Neelima, D/o Sri Lallan Thakur.

Document No. SHR-1-02434-2014/15, Dated 20.01.2015 at Senior Sub-Registrar Office Jayanagara (Shanthinagara) Bengaluru - 560027.

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act whereunder you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s).

Date : 02.03.2024
Place: Bangalore

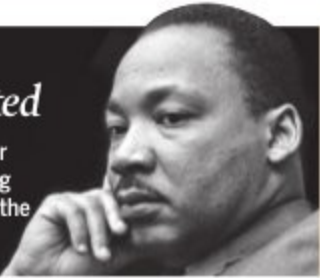
Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India, RACPC Malleshwaram, Bengaluru



DAY'S DIARY

King Jr. assassinated

On this day in 1968, Martin Luther King was shot dead while standing outside his second-floor room at the Lorraine Motel in Tennessee



MAN BEHIND THE MURDER

James Earl Ray pled guilty to the shooting and received a 99-year prison sentence. He claimed that he had been framed by a conspiracy responsible for King's assassination



AFTERMATH

As the news broke, cases of rioting, arson, looting, and violence were reported. Around 27,000 people were arrested, 3,500 were injured, and 40 plus were killed



FUNERAL RITES

On April 9, a seven-and-a-half hour series of funeral rites was held in Atlanta. Here, Abernathy stated that "one of the darkest hours of mankind" was at hand

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

As the city goes through a scorching heat wave, residents are eager to swap city life for diverse vacation spots, ranging from tropical beaches to cool hill stations, along with an unexpected rise in spiritual tourism across age groups after the recent inauguration of Ram Temple in Ayodhya



SUMMER ESCAPADES

Bia Sandhu at Lake Como

POOJA DAS

DRIVEN by the desire to unwind, explore, and escape the heat, Bengalureans are planning their next getaway with much anticipation. Bia Sandhu, an image stylist, wants to focus on relaxation and winding down from daily stresses. After extensive travels in Europe, she's heading with her family to Punta Cana, a town in the Dominican Republic known for its splendid beaches. "The weather is tropical so it's perfect to just enjoy the sun by the beach and evenings will be really cool and pleasant. After working hard like we all do through the year, we plan to just sit by the beach and destress," she says.

For many, the timing also aligns perfectly with the conclusion of a stressful exam period with families planning to take a deep dive into popular summer vacation destinations. Aliasgar Vadrnagarwala, has chosen Turkey for its rich history and spectacular landscapes. "Food is one of the main reasons I want to visit and my children want to enjoy the hot air balloons in Cappadocia. Weather is around 22 degrees which is pleasant and definitely better than here," shares Vadrnagarwala who will be travelling on April 28.

Ranjini Nambiar, founder of Footloose Yatra Consultants notes that due to 'Visas getting tougher to procure on short notice, many are opting for destinations like Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Turkey. Mahipal Singh's agency in Nagarathpete is also bustling with bookings for international destinations like Dubai and Turkey.

"Turkey is getting a lot of bookings this year. Also, in summers, normally it is hot in India. So, people prefer to go to European countries like Spain and France that are colder," says Singh, adding that Europe however is always a favourite destination among Indians.

While international destinations are a hit, Bengalureans are also exploring areas near to them for a quick getaway amidst their busy schedules. Radhna Shivale, a travel enthusiast, shares her plans to drive to a nearby location to get away from the hustle of city life. "We are going to Bandipur, a national park in Mysuru since we want to enjoy a long drive. The resort is nestled between forests and it's green everywhere. Being away from technology and network will be a good break from all the daily hustle," says the 32-year-old Bengalurean.

Last week, the city recorded its highest temperature in the last five years. Amidst the soaring temperatures and no relief, many are also looking to travel to cooler places to get some much-needed respite from the heat. Arun Kumar, owner of a rental car service has noticed a strong preference for South Indian hill stations. "People are mainly looking for Kodagu, Ooty, and Wayanad," he adds. Gayathri S, a post-grad student says, "We are planning to go to a cool hill station like Kodaikanal or Ooty." Nambiar also agrees, adding, "Everybody wants to escape the heat. All the hills of Gangtok are doing pretty well." She also highlights that demand for Kashmir has increased because of the tulip season with advanced bookings pouring in as early as two months ago.

DIVINE intervention

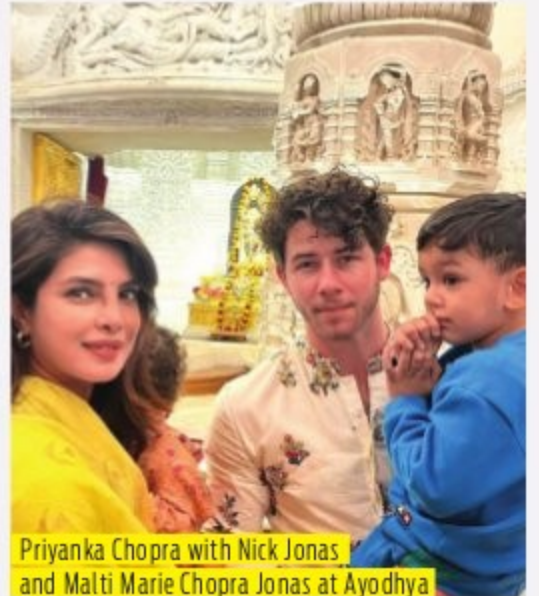
POOJA DAS

THE inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya in January has not just revitalised the city as a spiritual hub but also bridged generational gaps in religious tourism. Mohan Hegde, owner of a travel agency in the city notes a significant increase in inquiries. "Earlier, inquiries used to be either one or two but now, it's over 100 enquiries. We have three group tours going to Ayodhya every month which are full now. Now, people across ages are saying they have to go at least once," says Hegde.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas recently visited the Ram Temple alongside her husband Nick Jonas and daughter Malti Marie Chopra Jonas. Garima Pande of BUKIT.travel points out that millennials, typically seen as detached from spiritual pursuits, are engaging with cultural history. "Multiple celebrities promoting the inauguration on social media also helped increase awareness. I have had around 10 inquiries in a week. A lot of millennials are going - whether it is to visit the place with their parents or with their young kids - the idea of connecting with the cultural history is surely there," says Pande, who started tours to Ayodhya in the light of the Ram temple inauguration.

Roli Singh, a working professional in the city shares a personal connection with Ayodhya, attributing her motivation to visit Ayodhya. "I visited Ayodhya many years ago. Being from UP, Ayodhya has a special place. The motivation to visit now comes from two places - to look deeper within and appreciate the craftsmanship behind the new temple premises," says Singh.

Gitanjali Maini, founder-director of Gallery G, who visited the place with her husband Sandeep Maini, the Honorary Consul of Mexico, says, "My first time visiting Ayodhya was a great experience. Despite being just 13 days old, the temple's vibration was amazing. Although there is still work to be done, overall, it is ready to welcome visitors."



Priyanka Chopra with Nick Jonas and Malti Marie Chopra Jonas at Ayodhya



Sandeep and Gitanjali Maini



Celebrations during Ram Temple's inauguration



MONIKA MONALISA

WE often hear songs borne out of heart-break and one-sided love. **Tumken Siram's In baadalon mein** draws similar inspiration, but focuses on the positive aspects of such feelings. Siram says the song celebrates finding solace in the beauty of love's journey, regardless of its outcome.

"The story is about a person who is in love with someone but at the same time he knows that this relationship is never gonna happen. His feelings are never gonna manifest into something tangible. He takes it positively and is grateful for the experience that he's going through while being in that love," explains the city-based singer-songwriter, originally from Arunachal Pradesh. He

LOVE'S MANY FORMS

adds, "We all have in some way or the other experienced one-sided love. It could be as simple as having a crush on someone, maybe during our school days. So people know what I am speaking about. Without giving out much personal details it is somewhat inspired from some of my personal experiences."

The song, a blend of electronic and acoustic music, resonated with many listeners, including fellow musician Saurabh Quril, who produced it. "Both of us could relate to this song that I wrote because he also went through something very similar," says Siram. "Though the subject has had many nega-



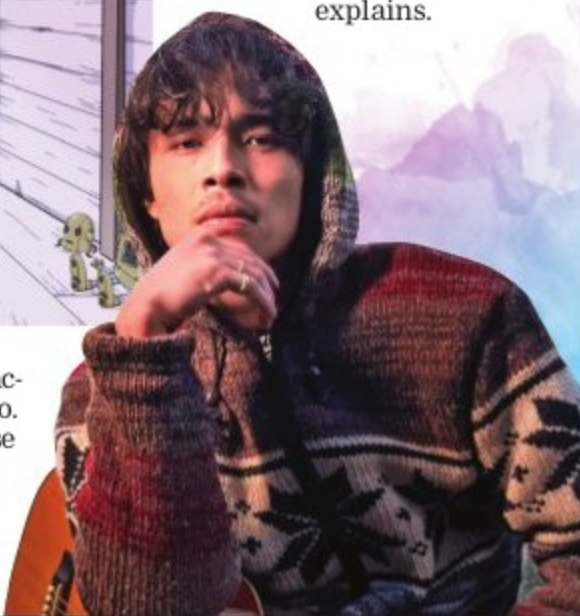
A still from the music video

tive approaches like some people hurting themselves, we wanted to keep it light and happy."

Though written and mastered a year ago, the song's release was delayed while Siram

sought the perfect accompanying video. He ultimately chose animation to best capture the song's essence. "In the video, I wanted

to show the guy who is living in his world. He is some sort of scientist who is taking off from the world. The metaphor here means even though he is alone, he is not going to change just because this aspect of his life is not working out," Siram explains.



KNOW YOUR CITY



Arun Prasad, city-based history researcher, unravels interesting facts about Bengaluru in this weekly quiz series. So it's time for you to find out how familiar you are with the city, beyond its heritage buildings, IT parks and the pub culture.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Send answers to **bengaluru@cityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line 'Know Your City Quiz' Correct answers and names of first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE on Thursday.

THE RIGHT ANSWERS ARE

- 1) ISKCON Temple
- 2) Malleswaram 3) Fraser Town

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

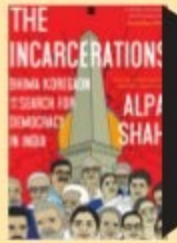
- 1) Abhay Prakash
- 2) Anilkumar Janardan
- 3) Prakash Rangaraju

BOOK

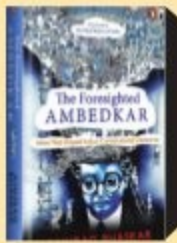
NOOK



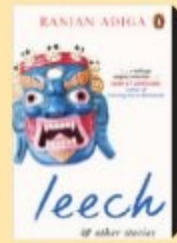
And They Lived...Ever After
by Rising Flame
Usually fairy tales demonise characters who live with disabilities, but this collection retells classic stories by weaving in their everyday struggles, joys, frustrations, and more that may not be known to the non-disabled.



The Incarcerations
by Alpa Shah
Pulls back the curtain on Indian democracy to tell the chilling story of the Bhima Koregaon case, in which sixteen human rights defenders (the BK-16)—professors, lawyers, journalists, and poets—were imprisoned as Maoist terrorists without credible evidence and trial.



The Forsighted Ambedkar
by Anurag Bhaskar
The author argues that India's Constitution was drafted not just between 1946 and 1950 but over the course of four decades. This book covers the different constitutional moments as and when they happened, and it highlights Dr. Ambedkar's role in those moments.



Leech & Other Stories
by Ranjan Adiga
A leech caught inside a man's nostril reveals fissures of class, like a few who are caught between tradition and progress. The book dives into the stories and lives of contemporary Nepalis struggling to belong to new worlds. The stories explore the distance between home and abroad, desire and reality, allegiance and treachery.



BOUNDLESS INTERSECTIONS

Visitors check out artist Ganapati Hegde's work at the exhibition Fading Frontiers, at KYNKYN Art Gallery | ALLEN EGENUSE J

QUICKFIX

CHUNKS PIRATTAL

- INGREDIENTS**
- Soya chunks: 15
 - Chilli powder: 1 tsp
 - Coriander leaves: 1 small bunch
 - Tomato: 2
 - Spring onion: 1 small bunch
 - Kitchen King masala: 1 tsp
 - Onion: 1
 - Salt to taste
 - Curd: 1 tbsp
 - Ginger-garlic paste: 1 tsp

- METHOD**
- Boil 1 litre of water. Add soya chunks. Let it cook for a couple of minutes.
 - Close the vessel. Leave it for half an hour.
 - Finely chop the tomatoes, onions, spring onions, and coriander leaves.
 - Remove the chunks from the water. Squeeze them. If the chunks are larger, then chop them into smaller pieces.
 - Mix the curd, ginger-garlic paste, salt, and squeezed chunks.
 - In a heavy-bottomed kadai, add 2 tablespoons of oil. Add onion. When the onion turns translucent, add tomatoes, chilli powder, Kitchen King masala, turmeric powder, and salt. Cook until oil separates.
 - Add chopped spring onions and coriander leaves. Sauté for a minute. Now add the soya chunks and mix them well.
 - Cook it for 10 minutes in a closed kadai.
 - Remove from heat. Serve with rice or chappathi.



Contributed by Uma Sridharan, Chennai

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Techno in the House

Experience the best of house and techno music with a line up of diverse artists including, Alina, Peachbloss & That 90s Kid.

🕒 **WHEN:** April 6, 7pm onwards
📍 **WHERE:** Indiranagar SOCIAL, HAL 3rd stage
📞 **DETAILS:** 8657 896572



Bollywood Night

Tap your feet to chart-topping Bollywood tracks and singles at this party night. Experience the vibrant atmosphere of the party with drinks and binge-worthy food. 🕒 **WHEN:** April 5, 8pm
📍 **WHERE:** Vapour Pub & Brewery, Indiranagar 📞 **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Standup Comedy

Tune in for an evening full of amusement filled with jokes and comedy punches at renowned standup comedian **Raunaq Rajani's** latest solo *Mandhid*.

🕒 **WHEN:** April 5, 6pm
📍 **WHERE:** The Underground Comedy Club, Koramangala
📞 **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



Melt and Mould

For anyone looking forward to explore their creativity and learn new hobbies, then this workshop teaches you the art of creating beautiful pressed flower candle holders and handcrafted scented candles led by experienced instructors.

🕒 **WHEN:** April 5, 5:30pm
📍 **WHERE:** Paint Cafe Studio, Whitefield
📞 **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



Acrylic Therapy

Embark on an acrylic art trail at this texture painting workshop where you immerse yourself in the depths of varied textures to craft evocative masterpieces that resonate with the vibe of your home.

🕒 **WHEN:** April 5, 4:30pm 📍 **WHERE:** Art Beat, HSR Layout 📞 **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



Sip and Paint

Indulge in a delightful fusion of artistry and relaxation at this sip and paint workshop where you get to savor sips of your favorite beverage as you unleash your inner artist on canvas.

🕒 **WHEN:** April 5, 4pm
📍 **WHERE:** Sobha Iris, Bellandur
📞 **DETAILS:** -----



Theatre Time

Watch the play *Skewed...*, a Fourth Wall Theatre's debut production, where mystery unfolds as Divya delves into the death of her husband, a police inspector, amidst twists, turns, and anonymous letters. 🕒 **WHEN:** April 7, 7pm 📍 **WHERE:** Vyoma ArtSpace and Studio Theatre, JP Nagar 📞 **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

The Stories in Us

Join the well known storyteller **Amandeep Singh** in *Mere Khayaal Se*—a show where poetry, shayari, and personal tales meet a unique twist! Delve beyond words into a world of hidden meanings, and experience an unforgettable night of storytelling and emotion.

🕒 **WHEN:** April 6, 6pm
📍 **WHERE:** Just BLR, Brigade Road
📞 **DETAILS:** insider.in



EXPRESS

CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

✉ @XpressBengaluru / @tnfeatures

✉ bengaluru@cityexpress@gmail.com

📱 @xpress_bengaluru

MISS-FIT

Waniitha Ashok

Waniitha Ashok is a Fit India Movement Ambassador and celebrity fitness coach

Can you please share some tips to avoid overeating while still being full?

Here are a few tips to help you address your problem.

- Eating slowly is a habit that's long forgotten. Pay attention to your food, savour each bite, and chew your food thoroughly. This can help you feel satisfied with less food, as it sends signals to the brain that the stomach is full.
- Eating from smaller plates, bowls, and spoons is a visual trick that can help you feel satisfied with less food. It helps control portion size and prevents overeating.
- Having fibre-rich foods like fruits, vegetables, legumes, and whole grains like millet, quinoa, and amaranth helps you feel full and satisfied for longer periods and also curb hunger.
- Next is my trump card nutrient: protein. Lean meats, poultry, fish, eggs, dairy, tofu, sprouts, dairy, and legumes can help you feel full and satisfied for longer periods and also curb hunger.

- Healthy fats are satiating and help avoid overeating. Include avocados, nuts, and seeds in your meals.

- Have water throughout the day and stay hydrated as this prevents the body from mistaking thirst for hunger.

FITBIT

URDHVA HASTASANA (PALM TREE POSE)

This is a beginner-level pose, but it forms the foundation for all standing yoga poses and inversions in yoga. It can be added to the daily yoga routine to help ease and relax the stiffness at the back, shoulders, and neck, with an added improvement in lung capacity. The main benefit is improving the body's balance and posture. It also works on the Muladhara Chakra, improving respiration, digestion, and blood circulation.

STEPS

- Start by standing straight with your feet together.
- Stretch your spine, lift your pelvis with your feet kept firm on the ground, and engage your navel (core).
- Round the shoulder back and down. Lift the chest, raising the torso slightly.
- Close your eyes and take a few deep breaths here.
- Keep your ankles, knees, pelvis, and shoulders in one line.
- Inhale, raise your arms forward, and interlock the fingers. Rotate the wrist with the palms facing forward.
- Raise your arms above your head by placing your shoulders away from your ears. Avoid crunching the neck.
- Continue stretching while keeping your elbow straight.
- This is the final pose. Take a few deep breaths here.
- During the practice, the eyes should remain steadily fixed in front.
- Release the interlock and bring down the hands.
- Relax in Mountain Pose Palms Facing Forward.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with severe arthritis or any injuries to the ankles, ribcage, spine, or shoulders should take it slow.
- Students with migraine, vertigo, or HBP should be very careful while doing the pose.
- Senior citizens and pregnant women may have balancing issues and hence can keep feet hip-width apart with wall support.

BENEFITS

- Influences and enhances your overall well-being.
- Increases the strength of the muscles and tones the ligaments.
- Engages and strengthens the abdominal and core muscles.
- Stretches the shoulders, neck, chest, core, back, and legs.
- Strengthens the joints of the pelvis, spine, foot, and elbows.
- Improves the flexibility of shoulders and spine.
- Opens up the lungs and gives access to the upper lobe of the lungs.
- Aids with chest congestion.
- Helps with increasing consciousness and expands your mental awareness.
- Makes the practitioners more alert, calm, and composed.
- Improves focus and concentration in students.
- Strengthens the psoas and upper back muscles.
- Aids in developing an upright posture.
- Helps with the easy flow of the prana (energy).
- Enhances the functioning of the organs, allowing good blood flow.
- Stimulates the heart chakra and activates the digestive system.
- Activates the lymph nodes and enhances the lymphatic system.
- Stretches the belly and aids in digestion.
- Releases muscular tensions and aids in the carpal tunnel syndrome.
- Helps to stabilise the mind and body.
- Balances the chakra and helps in creating a holistic and confident personality.
- Beneficial for beginners or students recovering from a prolonged illness.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER



A SPHERICAL WONDER

Artist Dimple B Shah's work explores themes of ecology and coexistence, highlighting the misuse and overconsumption of natural resources



'HORROR HOLDS A NOSTALGIC CHARM REMINISCENT OF CHILDHOOD TALES'

says Sathish Ninasam as he discusses his foray into the horror genre with *Matinee*, his experience working in the film, and plans for his career ahead

A SHARADHAA

SATHISH Ninasam, a product of theater, has always delivered compelling performances on the silver screen. His roles in films like *Drama* and *Lucia*, continue to spark conversations among audiences and critics, even years after their release. However, the actor has been off the screen for more than a year following his roles in *Petromax* and the direct OTT release, *Dear Vikram*. Addressing his hiatus, Sathish reflects on the unpredictable nature of the film industry, particularly amidst the pandemic. "The pandemic, which occurred a few years ago, disrupted release schedules beyond our expectations." Despite setbacks, Sathish remains optimistic about his upcoming projects, including the much-awaited *Matinee*, a film that has been in the making for some time now. "I am currently busy shooting for my next film, *Ashoka Blade*, and amidst discussions to sign other projects. I aim to fill the gap by delivering two to three films this year," says the actor, ahead of *Matinee's* release this week.

Horror is more like a children's film to me. Our grandmothers often told us ghost stories when we were young. There's a certain allure to the genre, and there are millions of people out there who are fans of horror films. So, being part of it was also fun

Sathish Ninasam, actor

The film, bankrolled by Parvathi Gowda's F3 Productions and directed by Manohar Kaampalli, stars Rachita Ram, Aditi Prabhudeva, Nagabhushan, and Shivaraj K R Pete as part of the cast.

For a versatile actor like Sathish Ninasam, known for inhabiting any role, *Matinee* marks his foray into the horror genre. Reflecting on his decision to delve into this particular genre, Sathish Ninasam first credits director Manohar Kaampalli's clear vision for the film. Further, acknowledging the unique challenges posed by horror, Sathish points out the importance of visual expression. "Since this was my first attempt at horror, every shot and how it is visually expressed becomes important. Likewise, sound design also becomes important in creating the horror impact. Of course, there are emotions and love among other elements involved," says Sathish, as he praises the meticulous preparation and collaboration behind the scenes and commends the technical expertise and collective effort of the team. "Thankfully, we had a director with a good technical background. We also had experienced actors come together for the film," he adds.

Interestingly, from Sathish's perspective, horror holds a nostalgic charm reminiscent of childhood tales. "Horror is more like a children's film to me. Our grandmothers often told us ghost stories when we were young. There's a certain allure to the genre, and there are millions of people out there who are fans of horror films. So, being part of it was also fun," he says.

Sathish views the title *Matinee* as a metaphor with deeper meaning, while the film itself leans towards light-hearted fun and pure entertainment, avoiding any overt

messages. When questioned about whether horror films have a deeper narrative, Sathish affirms, "Yes, while *Matinee* is filled with horror and humour, the plot also delves into strong emotions and themes of friendship. The first half of *Matinee* builds suspense with a search for the source of fear and confusion, while the second half unveils the true story behind it all. The film's blend of lightheartedness and surprising depth creates a unique and rewarding experience for viewers," he says.

As an actor, how does one face the challenges posed by a horror film? "I found working in a horror film rather fun, than challenging," says Sathish, who recognised the importance of expertly navigating the suspenseful moments in horror. "I also understood the significance of immersing oneself in the character, a task that was made easier by teamwork," he adds.

On the shooting experience, Sathish says that his camaraderie with co-actors like Nagabhushan and Shivaraj Pete added to the enjoyment. "They are all close friends, which made going to the sets a fun experience. When you have friends as co-actors, the work atmosphere becomes better. We felt confident enough to share our ideas freely, with no worries about judgment. We only focused on how we could improve together," he says.

Looking ahead, Sathish reflects on his future plans. "I feel truly fulfilled as an actor, as I have a few good projects lined up. My confidence has only grown, and it will continue to increase after the release of *Ashoka Blade*. I have a handful of excellent films planned for the coming years," he concludes.



Jesse Eisenberg's *A Real Pain* to release in October

CE FEATURES

ACTOR-turned-filmmaker Jesse Eisenberg's dramedy *A Real Pain*, is all set to hit theatres on October 18. The announcement was made by the makers, Searchlight Pictures, on Tuesday.

Kieran Culkin stars alongside Eisenberg, who has also penned the script of *A Real Pain*. The duo will feature as David and Benji, who take a trip to Poland to honour their grandmother, but the journey stirs up old family conflicts alongside memories of the past.

Jennifer Grey, Will Sharpe, Kurt Egyiawan, Liza Sadovy, and Daniel Oreskes round out the cast of *A Real Pain*. Ali Herten, Dave McCary, Ewa Puszczyńska, Jennifer Semler, Eisenberg, and Emma Stone are the producers of the project.

Jesse Eisenberg recently had the world premiere of *Sasquatch Sunset* at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival. The film is a surreal comedy directed by David Zellner and Nathan Zellner and is slated for a release on April 12. The actor will also be seen in the upcoming film, *I'll Be Right There*.

KARTIK BHARDWAJ

BOLLYWOOD is looking at Sunny Hinduja, the beloved 'Sandeep bhaiyya' from TVF's *Aspirants*, in a different light. The actor, known for comparatively subtler roles on OTT, is often being seen as the big-screen baddie, locking horns with Kartik Aaryan in the 2023 action-comedy *Shehzada* and most recently with Sidharth Malhotra in *Yodha*. "It was a Dharma film. The role was that of the main villain," he says. "An offer, I couldn't possibly refuse."

What is it about Sunny that makes him look like a formidable villain? Is it his chiselled cheekbones? His burly physique? Or are these roles just a way to be a part, albeit a small one, of a larger picture? "I am ok with doing any role where I can show my skills as an actor. It's a good place to start with if my character has a graph and is ultimately saying something," says Hinduja. "If getting work at the moment means playing villains, so be it. You can only choose from the roles that are being offered. Of course, even I would want to do lead roles."

It's not just Bollywood. Hinduja is gearing up for his Malayalam debut with the film *Hello Mummy*, a horror-comedy, in which he will be essaying the role of an exorcist. It might not be a villain per se, but could be a character with grey shades. The actor is a bit cagey in revealing details of the plot and character and gives the dreaded "that's all I can possibly share at the moment" response. However, he candidly shares his experience of working with a Malayalam film team for the first time. "What stood

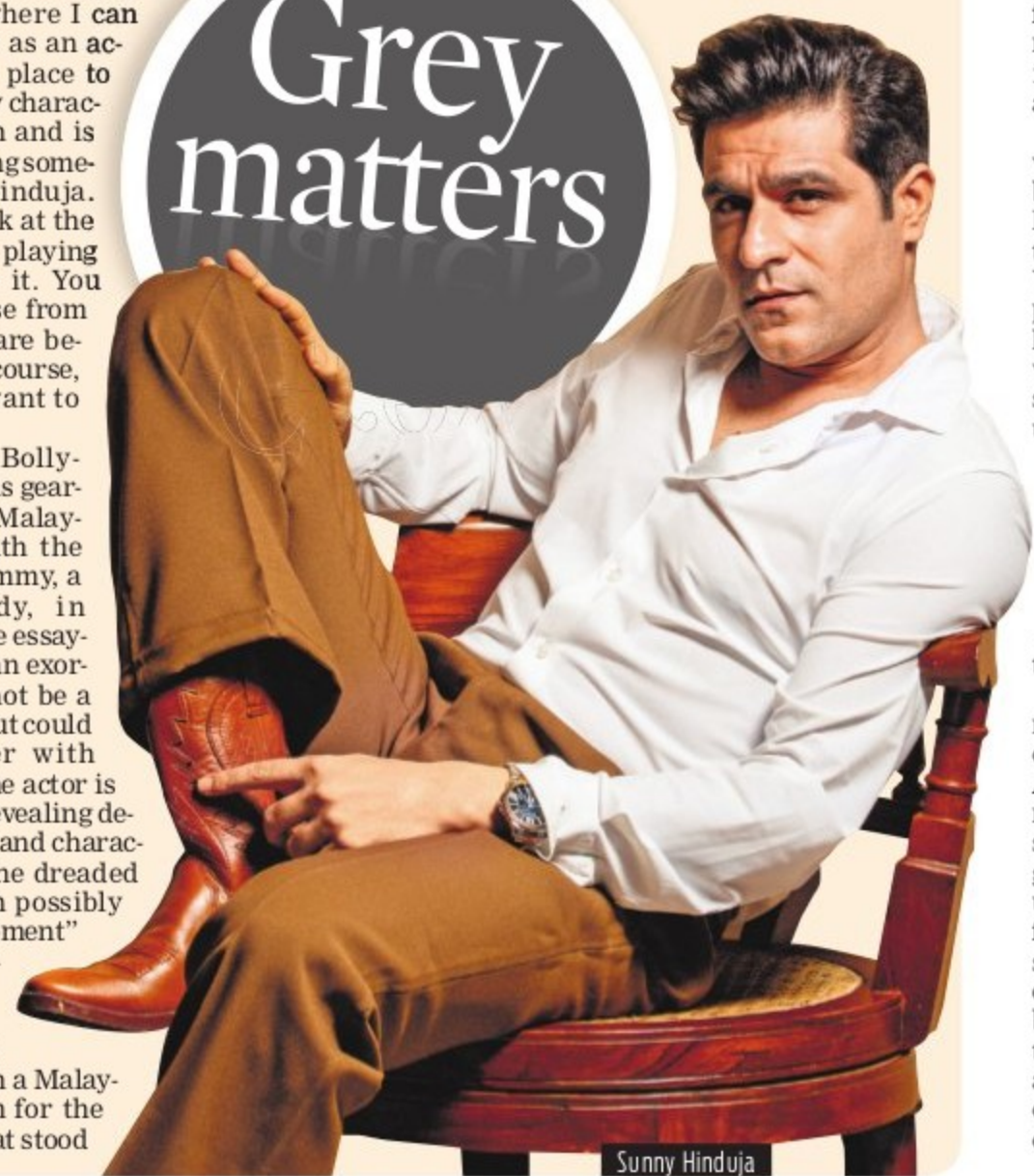
out for me is that the people here are synonymous with simplicity and humility. Even when there is a difference between their language and ours, they are always humble," he says. On the topic of language, we ask him if he had to learn Malayalam for the role. "A little bit, but thankfully I didn't have to speak much Malayalam in the film."

When it comes to OTT, Hinduja, even when on the sidelines, has had a slew of varied roles. Recently, he played a journalist in the gut-wrenching *The Railway Men*. His first notable OTT performance was in *The Family Man*, as an intelligence operative. But what possibly gave him the most

acclaim, to the level that he got his own spinoff series, was the chain-smoking, contemplative IAS aspirant Sandeep Ohlan in *Aspirants*. When asked what made the character so relevant? Hinduja takes a pensive pause. "In a way, everybody is an aspirant," he says. "The difficulties Sandeep bhaiyya faced are something that I think everybody does when they want to achieve something. There is competition, the need for hard work, the problems in arthik sthithi (financial situation)."

But is the playing field different for him, compared to someone who is part of the film fraternity? "Those from film families might get two or three extra chances. This is a cut-throat industry," he says. "If you get a chance to bat, you better hit a six."

Grey matters



Sunny Hinduja

CE FEATURES

MARIGOLD, typically associated with vibrant blooms, takes on a new meaning in the upcoming film from director Raghavendra Naik. In his film *Marigold*, starring Diganth, Sangeetha Sringeri, Yash Shetty, and Cockroach Suddhi as the lead cast, the audience is drawn into a world where gold holds all the power to unravel people's real characters. "Greed, friendship, and the intricate dynamics of human nature are all explored against the backdrop of this seemingly innocuous object," says the director. Explaining the significance behind the title, Raghavendra Naik says, "The word 'Mari' in Kannada language has multiple meanings, including 'sell' and 'Devil'. While *Marigold* has a floral reference, as a film, it explores desire and morality, getting into the complexities of human relationships and aspirations."

The film produced by Raghuvardhan has cinematography by KS Chandrashekar while Raghu Niduvalli has penned the dialogues, and music by Veer Samarth. Coincidentally, producer Raghuvardhan, who himself is a director (Badri) was on the lookout for his next subject to direct, stumbled upon Raghavendra Naik's script. "The genre—crime thriller—wasn't exactly in my comfort zone for directing. However, the sheer brilliance of the storyline pushed me to take a leap into film production, marking my first venture," shares Raghuvardhan.

"Every aspect of the story is made with freshness, from the characters to the plot twists in *Marigold*," the director says, revealing that the film marks a significant departure for Diganth, who ventures into a role unlike any he has tackled before. "I wanted to do a different script with Diganth, but it never took off. His forte has always been love stories, but as an actor, I recognise his caliber. He's an athlete and badminton champion; I know he's capable of much more than just playing

'I am a big critic of my own work but I felt I have done a good job in

Marigold



Raghavendra Naik and Raghuvardhan

...says Diganth, who along with Sangeetha Sringeri, director Raghavendra Naik, and producer Raghuvardhan, shares details of their crime thriller, slated for release this week

the lover boy," Raghavendra continues, "I didn't want him to be stuck in one particular type of role. I aimed to push him out of his comfort zone and showcase his versatility. In fact, he didn't embrace the role in *Marigold* immediately. He was initially hesitant and had reservations about whether he could pull it off and even spent two days contemplat-

ing before finally committing to the character," he says.

Diganth admits that Raghavendra Naik was long to see him in a different role and he was confident that he could pull off diverse roles. "*Marigold* as a thriller comes with a good story. In fact, we shot this film in scorching heat. Raghavendra has been particular with his scenes and did not budge until he got the

right shots, bringing variation to my character as well as others'. I am a big critic of my own work, and when I watched the film recently, I felt that I have done a good job in this film."

Big Boss Kannada Season 10 contestant and actor, Sangeetha Sringeri, known for her portrayals of girl-next-door characters, and her role in *777 Charlie*, finds her character in *Marigold* fresh and unique. "I've always wanted to take on glamorous roles, but ones that aren't stereotypical or shallow," she explains. In the film, she takes on the role of a dancer; a character she sees as an opportunity. "Through my character, the film showcases how far a girl will go for love. It was a risky role to take on, and I'm eager to see how audiences will react," she admits, adding, "I understand that sooner or later, I'll have to take on more glamorous roles. There are some bold scenes, but I made sure to approach them with a clear artistic vision," she says, signing off.